



# The Butte Falls Mill Site Development Feasibility Study

## A P P E N D I C E S

prepared for  
Town of Butte Falls  
and  
Rogue Valley Council of Governments

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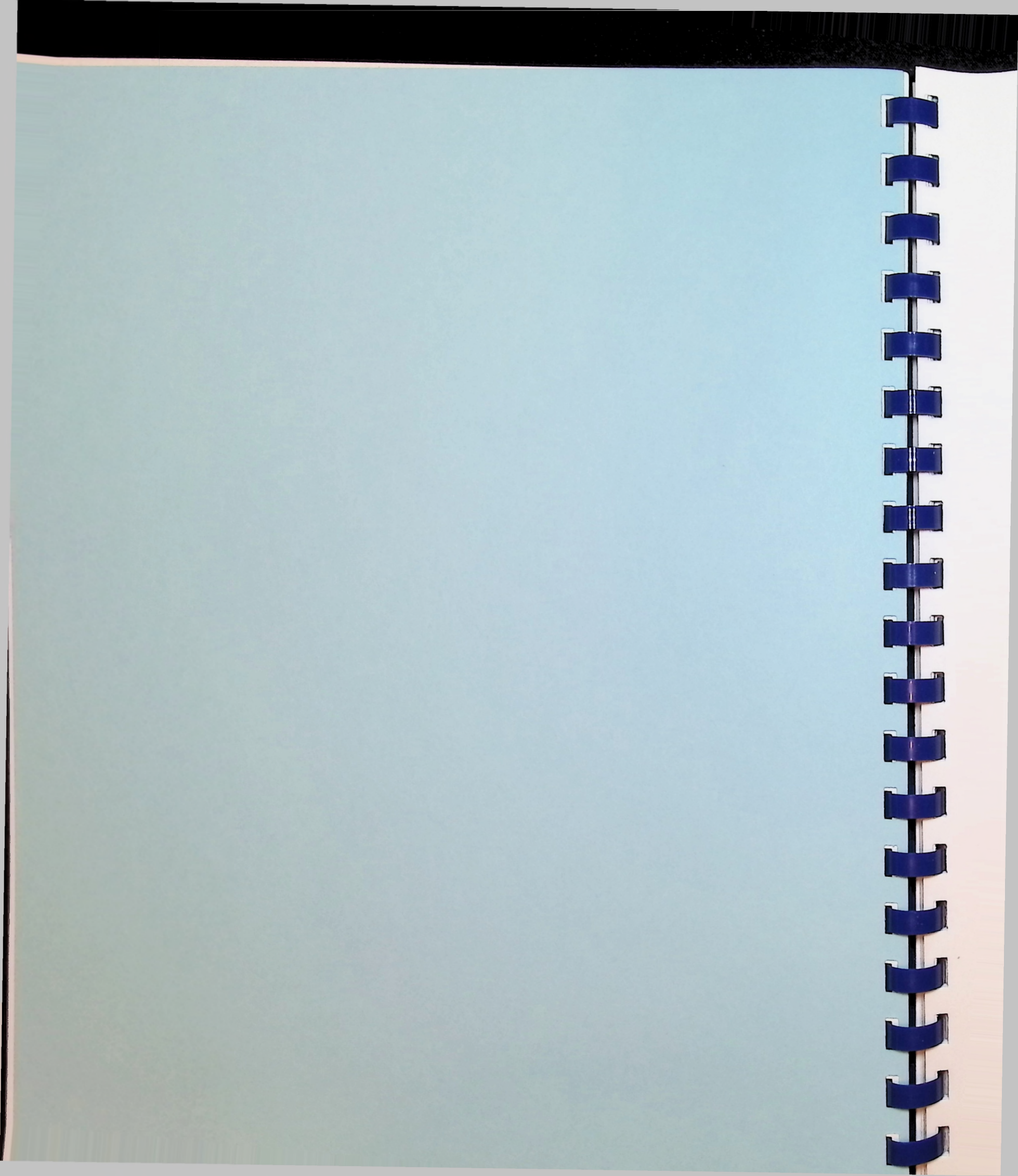


APPENDIX 1

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Kay Atwood







## Land Above the Stream: The Sawmill Site at Big Butte Creek Falls

All the best timber is gone...When I was young; there was beautiful stands of old growth timber, large timber in the open woods there. Now its all grown up to young growth and you can't see anywhere any more...You don't see those big trees, they're all cut out and gone...You used to see them by the road just everywhere - four, five, six, seven feet through...You don't see any of those anymore. They're gone.

Charlie Patton, 1977<sup>1</sup>

### Introduction

People have used the falls on Big Butte Creek for thousands of years. During these millennia Native Americans sustained life in seasonal campsites along the stream and on the large flat above it. Euro-Americans have occupied the area for the past 150 years. Early in the twentieth century entrepreneurs built a sawmill near the falls and harnessed the stream for power. Soon a new community took shape nearby and people once again lived above the water.

This overview traces the history of the sawmill and its relationship to the founding and development of the town of Butte Falls, Oregon. The study examines the historical record pertaining to the sawmill that existed in various forms there between 1904 and 1925 and provides information that can help determine possible future uses of the site.

The narrative is chronologically organized. The first segment briefly reviews the early history of the site between 1827 and 1899 and establishes a historic context for later activities. The second part covers the years 1900 to the end of World War I in 1918, a period in which company promoters built the sawmill near the falls, and platted the town of Butte Falls. During these years local residents voted to incorporate as a municipality. The final segment, 1919 to 1925, reviews the last period of the sawmill's existence as well as its eventual closing and demolition. Long interested in their community's history, Butte Falls citizens have become increasingly aware of the significant relationship between the old sawmill and the town that developed because of it.



## 1827-1899 "...A Gloriously Dense and Majestic Forest."<sup>2</sup>

The continuity of human life along Big Butte Creek is a long one. Here people sustained life over thousands of years. During the centuries before Euro-American settlement, Native American bands found the area supplied with fish, game and edible vegetation. Historian Jeff LaLande, noting that a sizable encampment once existed at the falls on Big Butte Creek, describes it as "probably a major fishery site...where salmon and/or steelhead could be taken with harpoons, nets, or other methods."<sup>3</sup>

During the twenty-five years preceding permanent Euro-American settlement of the Rogue Valley region, members of the Hudson's Bay Company fur brigades traversed the region. These travelers were possibly the first white people to visit the Big Butte Creek watershed and explore the stream.<sup>4</sup>

Within a few years settlers followed these trappers in Southern Oregon. They named Big Butte Creek for the mountain from which it rises - the peak they knew as Snowy Butte. Now called Mount McLoughlin, this promontory rises 9,500 feet to the southeast of the falls. The area soon became known as the Big Butte country.<sup>5</sup> An early area historian described the mountain:

Its summit, coated with the unmelted snow of the ages, rears aloft as an enduring landmark to the people of five counties... where a symmetrical cone rises... covered with snow and belted beneath by a zone of evergreen trees scattered in the upper regions but growing more and more thickly toward the base, and where the mountain broadens out into the plateau, merging into a gloriously dense and majestic forest.<sup>6</sup>

Although hunters and trappers from the lower valley visited the Big Butte country early in the 1850s, the first known written description of the falls appeared in 1855, when the General Land Office surveyor recorded the boundary line between Sections 10 and 11, Township 35 south Range 2 East. He noted the "timber, pine and fir open woods" as he descended Big Butte Creek to the falls. He noted:



Big Butte Creek, 70 links wide, course runs northwest. Rapid current. Ten chains below line is a fine mill privilege, fall 20 feet perpendicular and rock bottom and banks.<sup>7</sup>

Although settlement of the interior valleys was well underway in the mid 1850s, it was delayed in the Big Butte country until passage of the Homestead Act of May 20, 1862, when additional public land became available. In the 1860s on the forested terrace overlooking the falls, B.F. Dunlap, brothers Robert V. and Thomas F. Beall, and Jacksonville banker C.C. Beekman each staked claims.<sup>8</sup> Like many others, these individuals recognized the potential value of the timber that stood on their land.

Early settlers came frequently to the Big Butte country to cut sugar pine shakes, cedar posts and cordwood for sale in the valley. The roads were seasonal and hauling done by ox or horse team over a net work of trails. The main route through the area was the Rancheria road, a wagon road developed from Jacksonville to Fort Klamath in 1863 that passed near the later site of Butte Falls.<sup>9</sup>

The scattered homesteads of the Big Butte country stood a considerable distance from main valley transportation routes. Their isolation was eased somewhat on May 9, 1878 when the first post office was established in the area. Although it moved several times, the office was generally located in the vicinity of Township 35 South, Range 2 East.<sup>10</sup>

A few sawmills appeared in the Big Butte Creek area between 1870 and 1900 when workers in small logging operations harvested the first timber from forests in the Big Butte forests. They cut sugar pine and ponderosa pine (yellow pine) from hillsides in near proximity to the sawmills. The high plateau timber remained mostly untouched, except for occasional felling of large sugar pines for shakes. Historian LaLande states that, "The ... stands of old growth sugar pine attracted a horde of shake and shingle makers during the 1880s."<sup>11</sup>

John B Leiberg's late nineteenth century field study described Township 35 South Range 2 East, in which the falls on Big Butte Creek is located:

...Much of the forest has either been cleared away for agricultural purposes or logged for sawmill and domestic uses. The sugar pine has suffered severely from the shake makers. Millions of feet have been cut down and, proving difficult to split, have been allowed to lie where they fell, unused. Fires have marked the forest everywhere in the township.<sup>12</sup>



He noted the excessive waste:

Large amounts of the logged areas have been culled over by shake makers and much of the sugar pine has been cut for such purpose involving the waste of a vast amount of valuable timber...The forests in the sugar-pine areas ... are littered with many millions of feet of rotting sugar pine rejected by the shake maker on account of slight imperfections of grain.<sup>13</sup>

### 1900-1918 "A Fine Mill Privilege."

Following the arrival of the railroad in Southern Oregon in 1884, the potential for the sale of products to outside markets rapidly increased. By 1900 both local residents and outside speculators were acutely aware of the vast wealth lying in the thousands of timbered acres in the high country. Many individuals claimed land only to hold valuable timber for resale to wealthy land investors. Between 1900 and 1915, homestead claimants used existing land laws such as the Timber and Stone Act of 1878 to purchase potentially valuable timberlands. LaLande explains:

The [period] witnessed America's last and greatest rush for free land. More acreage was claimed under the public land laws during this relatively brief span of time than during the preceding thirty-eight year history of the Homestead Act.... [The Timber and Stone Act] involved outright purchase of timbered parcels, (160 acres per claimant) and required no residence, cultivation, or other improvements.<sup>14</sup>

By the end of the nineteenth century, individual timber claim owners readily sold to various corporation representatives. Charlie Patton, early Butte Falls resident recalled his father's work buying timber claims:

All the homesteaders, pretty near, sold out to the lumber company. Of course he contacted the owners and tried to make a deal with them, so they could purchase the timber - the land, timber and all. They purchased the whole thing. Of course, they usually could buy it. Sometimes they had trouble buying some because they wouldn't offer enough, you know. They offered what they had to, what they figured they had to offer in order to purchase it. And, sometimes, it wasn't very much.<sup>15</sup>



Shortly before 1900 prominent Medford businessmen bought substantial timber acreage from local claimants. A.A. Davis, founder of the Medford Roller Mills, and partner William I. Vawter invested heavily in vast timberlands along Big Butte Creek. Among the properties they acquired were the hillsides flanking the falls. In 1898 Davis, Vawter and others consolidated their thousands of acres of individual holdings into the Big Bend Milling Company of Davenport Washington, a company of which A.A. Davis was a founder.<sup>16</sup>

Typical of the Big Bend Milling Company transactions was the purchase of homesteader William Ulrich's land above the falls. Ulrich sold his land:

Together with all my right, title and interest in all the timber standing thereon of every nature and kind, save and except cedar with the right to enter...for the purpose of cutting and removing said timber thereon and also all the necessary and proper rights of way for roads to cut and remove said timber...<sup>17</sup>

While the Big Bend Milling Company welcomed the opportunity to invest in the valuable timber acreage, they were hindered in plans to realize profits. The lack of rail transportation and the division of holdings between different corporate owners, delayed successful exploitation.<sup>18</sup>

Early in the twentieth century, as timber resources disappeared in the Great Lakes region, eastern capitalists looked to the vast Oregon forests to sustain their wealth. In 1903, Bert H. Harris, representing wealthy businessman Luin K. Parkhurst and others in Reed City, Michigan, visited the Big Butte Creek watershed and enthusiastically noted the area's timber resources. He also saw a potential use for the falls on Big Butte Creek to power a mill site. Above the pounding water lay a broad, forested terrace. Here, Harris envisioned a thriving community.

In late 1903 and early 1904 Parkhurst purchased several valuable timber parcels from individuals along Big Butte Creek. Early in April 1904, the *Medford Mail* noted some promising plans by a new company, the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company, newly incorporated by Medford residents J.D. Olwell and W.P. Entron.

...A number of prominent workers for the development of the country have been negotiating with eastern capitalists for the purpose of opening up the big timber belt of Butte creek and the upper Rogue River.



The company has acquired over 2000 acres of land on Big Butte Creek, including land along both sides of the creek for a considerable distance above the prospective site of the mill, at which point the creek will furnish ample power for all the purposes contemplated by the company.

The lumbering business, which this corporation intends inaugurating, will be one of the largest in the state and its operations will be by no means confined to the particular body above mentioned.<sup>19</sup>

On April 26, 1904, Bert Harris, now manager of the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company, initiated a water right claim and planned construction of a ditch to bring water to the sawmill site. The water rights application read:

The Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company proposes to construct a ditch for the purposes of conveying the waters of Big Butte Creek to the extent of 15,000 cubic inches of water...under a six-inch pressure, from said Big Butte Creek... Said ditch to be known as the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company's Ditch. That said water is to be used for power, irrigation and domestic purposes.<sup>20</sup>

Laborers began gouging out earth and rock for the ditch that was to be twenty-one feet at the top, seven feet width at the bottom and seven feet deep. The grade of fall, in feet per 600 feet (the length of the flume), was two inches.<sup>21</sup> In late 1904, workers began building a log dam and a wooden flume to lead from the pond to the sawmill at the falls.<sup>22</sup>

On May 20, 1904 the *Medford Mail* noted, "Work at the Big Butte Falls is progressing rapidly. The road is complete, the mill site is swamped out and the mill race will be completed within a few days."<sup>23</sup> In July the newspaper reported the company's plans for dealing with the transportation problem.

B.H. Harris, who has been conducting the preliminary survey of the new railroad to be built into the Big Butte timber belt, says the survey that has just been completed has been a very expensive one, but withal a practical undertaking and that another preliminary survey will be made during the next few week. Mr. Harris also says that Eastern capitalists may at any time push this road to early completion; however there is nothing certain when the road will commence building.<sup>24</sup>



In late December 1904, the newspaper reported the founding of the Medford and  
Water Lake Railroad Company with Olwell, Bert Harris and others as officers.<sup>25</sup> Eastern  
investors, including L.K. Parkhurst, secured a right of way to build the railroad from  
Medford to the land just above the mill at the falls on Big Butte Creek. The company  
broke ground on April 4, 1905. Luin Parkhurst died unexpectedly six weeks later on  
May 30, 1905 and Bert Harris turned the railroad franchise over to local investors.<sup>26</sup>

On May 15, 1905 the Big Bend Milling Company sold their large holdings along  
Big Butte Creek to the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company, "an Oregon  
corporation with head offices at Medford."<sup>27</sup> By late November cold weather settled in  
as workers toiled on the flat above the falls. In freezing weather they cut massive trees  
into logs to fashion the dam and flume. Ernest Smith, early Butte Falls resident, recalled  
that the company's first sawmill was a small steam mill, built to cut material for a larger  
mill. Two circular saws for the headrig were hauled to the site.<sup>28</sup>

The Medford newspaper reported progress:

There is a lot of work being done by the Butte Falls Milling  
Company in the way of getting their lumbering plant on Butte  
Creek in shape for cutting lumber in the future. The company has  
now in its employ eighteen men, who are engaged in finishing the  
dam, building flumes and getting things in shape for business. The  
machinery for a mill with a capacity of 20,000 feet per day has been  
hauled in and set up ready to run, and it is expected that the mill  
will start about the middle of December.<sup>29</sup>

Bert Harris spent much of his time buying timberland from area homesteaders.<sup>30</sup>  
Laborers dragged a donkey engine along the banks above the creek to cut hundreds of  
thousands feet of logs in preparation for the start of milling.<sup>31</sup> The newspaper reported:

Provisions for the winter have been hauled in and it will require an  
occurrence out of the ordinary to stop the continuation of work  
through the winter. By the time spring opens there will be a whole  
lot of lumber in the yards of the Butte Falls Co., ready for  
transportation to market and more will be coming all the time.<sup>32</sup>

In early December 1905, Harris, now president of the Butte Falls Sugar Pine  
Lumber Company, completed drawings for a townsite on the wooded terrace above the  
falls. Here, where tents housed workers employed at the mill, Harris planned broad



streets, a centrally located city park, commercial district and residential areas. The mill would supply lumber for newly constructing houses in the new company town.<sup>33</sup>

Track for the Medford and Crater Lake Railroad reached Eagle Point that December. Anticipating rapid completion of the line to Butte Falls, the *Ashland Tidings* reported, "The town of Butte Falls is already built on paper and may be a reality when the [railroad] reaches the site which is on the ... Kelly Ranch" <sup>34</sup>

Bert Harris filed a plat for Butte Falls on January 9, 1906 and officials recorded it on January 22, 1906.<sup>35</sup> Fully outlining the town, the plat indicated the location of the new sawmill as well as the proposed route of the Medford and Crater Lake Railroad. The *Medford Mail* described the new community as occupying "one of the most salubrious locations in Southern Oregon:"

The townsite comprises some fifty-five acres, divided into business lots of 25 x 130 feet and residence lots of 50 x 150. The town is laid out so that the center is a plaza of 300 feet square. On each side of this plaza are twelve business lots of the size above mentioned, separated from the public park by a street eighty feet in width. All the streets in the new town are eight feet wide and the alleys twenty feet.<sup>36</sup>

The Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company applied for establishment of a post office and arranged to open a general store. The *Mail* reporter enthusiastically wrote:

Butte Falls will be an ideal town. Pure mountain water will be brought by gravity to any part of the town. The falls have a force of 300 horsepower and electricity can be generated for lighting and other purposes.<sup>37</sup>

The article continued:

Since October 1<sup>st</sup>, [1905] the Butte Falls Milling Co. have put in operation a sawmill and logging engine, have nearly completed a dam across Big Butte 180 feet in length, have built a flume thirty rods in length and are now constructing a mill with a capacity of 70,000 feet daily.

The Butte Falls Co. intend to confine their operations strictly to sawing lumber and invite the establishment of planing mills,



shingle mills and factories to cooperate with them in the effort to built up a manufacturing town that will be a credit to Southern Oregon. The mill will be run during the forepart of the season on material for the M & C L. RR, construction of which will be pushed as soon as the weather settles.<sup>38</sup>

At the first of February, the *Medford Mail* featured a prominent advertisement for the new company town that read, "new town recently surveyed, platted and Dedicated by the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Co."<sup>39</sup>

Men worked through the winter cutting massive timbers for the larger mill:

...The mill is running on full time, cutting 16,000 feet per day, which lumber is being used in building dams, flumes and the big mill, which the Butte Falls Company intend putting in as soon as the machinery therefore can be hauled in.<sup>40</sup>

Elga Abbott, longtime Butte Falls resident, recalled that the log chute that carried the logs from the hillside down to the stream was built of logs and that the dam was constructed of fir logs and lumber.<sup>41</sup>

Bert Harris continued to work on the problem of transporting materials:

Mr. B.H. Harris informed a *Mail* reporter this week that this mill will have a capacity of 300,000 feet of lumber every twenty-four hours and that the company expects to saw 10,000,000 feet this season... Orders are in ahead for this much lumber if it can be gotten out. Right there is the sticking point. The getting of the lumber out, but the Butte Falls company is determined to secure means for transporting their product to market and that before the end of the season...

Negotiations are now under way to bring about the extension of the Medford & Crater Lake Railroad as quickly as possible from Eagle Point on to the timber, either under the present management, or by the Butte Falls Company acquiring a controlling interest and building the road themselves "We must get that lumber out," said Mr. Harris, "and if we can't do it one way we will in another."



The Butte Falls Company now controls over 10,000 acres of as fine timber as ever stood in Oregon and by the time it is all sawed Medford will be one of the chief inland cities of the coast.<sup>42</sup>

By mid-February 1906 the company had sold several lots in the new town:

"Fourteen deeds to town lots in Butte Falls were made out today," said Mr. Harris, "and buildings will go on every one of them, at once. We have a shingle and planing mill coming in at once, and our saw mill can supply lumber for building...."<sup>43</sup>

Never forgetting that a railroad was critical to the survival of his mill and of the community, Harris continued:

We don't expect to rival Medford for awhile, but we are going to have a town at Butte Falls before you know it. I am going north now to endeavor to settle the matter of the extension of the Medford and Crater Lake Railroad from Eagle Point to the timber. The Butte Falls Co. is interested in seeing it built. The building of this road is vital to our interests. ... I think I am safe in saying that within the next few months Medford people can get on the cars here Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning, spend the day in the pure air of the mountains and be back at their desks and counters Monday morning." ... The extension for "Eagle Point to Butte Falls will be made this year, however, and you can go out and bet on that."<sup>44</sup>

The following month investors increased their financial backing for the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company. The newspaper wrote:

. The Butte Falls Lumber Co. controls a vast tract of the finest timber in the Butte Creek country, together with the water rights of Big Butte Creek, which assures them ample power for milling, electric lighting and other uses. At the [annual] meeting ... the capital stock was increased to \$1,000,000 and extensive plans were laid for the building of a city or factories and homes at Butte Falls.

... G.T. Richard of Medford will shortly put in a stock of general merchandise, thus becoming the first merchant of the embryo city, and will also start a meat market there.



The company... assures the people that the Medford and Crater Lake Railroad will be extended to Butte Falls this season and that the road will not be stopped there... Ample capital is interested to carry out the plans of the company.

The assurance of the early development of the big timber belt of Big Butte and Upper Rogue River marks the beginning of an era of progress for the whole valley in general and of Medford in particular.<sup>45</sup>

Workers logged off the townsite and cut the timber on both sides of Big Butte Creek, almost to the current fish hatchery location. Workers used the donkey engine and log chutes and cables to get the timber to the mill.<sup>46</sup>

As spring weather warmed continual demand for timber kept the mill busy. At the same time, the mill employees pushed construction of the big sawmill:

The Butte Falls Company is turning out 30,000 shingles per day and the demand is such that are taken as fast as sawed. Water wheels are on the way to furnish power for the big saw mill and in a very short time the mill will be in running order and turning out 40,000 feet of lumber per day...

The population is increasing right along and now numbers over one hundred. Twenty families are expected from Omaha in a few days who will make their home at Butte Falls. Work has not been commenced upon the extension of the M and C. L. railroad yet, but very likely will be in the next few weeks.<sup>47</sup>

By early 1907 the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company suffered financial problems. Strapped by the expense of developing the sawmill on Big Butte Creek the company had also cut much of the available timber on its holdings along Big Butte Creek.

In May 1907, the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company sold much of its land to W.S. Dewing, a prominent lumberman from Kalamazoo, Michigan, his brother Charles A. Dewing and D.F. Atland of Detroit. Ownership of the land, including the sawmill, was transferred with the notation that the property was free of encumbrances except for taxes for 1905 and 1906.<sup>48</sup> The Dewing interests, later incorporating as the Butte Falls Lumber Company, planned to hold the land for investment. They retained Bert Harris to oversee operations in Butte Falls.



During the fall of 1907, the national financial picture darkened as "runs" on banks followed a period of excessive speculation. As banks collapsed, widespread panic gripped the nation. Other dire news especially threatened the timber companies. Prospects for the railroad, recently renamed the Pacific and Eastern by new backers, were bleak. The Medford *Daily Tribune* wrote:

As a result of the proposed advance in the eastern rail rate on lumber...the Pacific and Eastern will probably not be extended to the Butte Creek forests and the large timber tracts adjacent to the Rogue River Valley be left uncut for many years. The proposed rate will affect every lumber industry in southern Oregon as well as in Oregon in general.<sup>49</sup>

Financially weakened and facing competition from smaller operations such as the Olsen Mill and Antoine Duprey's sawmill on Obenchain Road, the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company faced ruin. In October 1907, the U.S. District Court in Portland, Oregon declared the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company bankrupt.<sup>50</sup>

With new money coming in, however, from Dewing Brothers and other investors, work at the falls went on. While the precise date of completion of the large sawmill has not been determined, early Butte Falls resident Ernest Smith recalled that in 1907 the new mill was operating on the site, sawing approximately 25,000 board feet a day and employing twenty to thirty men.<sup>51</sup> The Dewing interests accumulated thousands of additional timbered acres in the area of Butte Falls and according to historian LaLande, "began cutting the more accessible stands of pine and fir along Big Butte Creek, providing a source of employment for the growing population in the nearby community."<sup>52</sup>

In January 1908, while working at the mill, Bert Harris suffered a near-fatal accident. The *Daily Tribune* reported:

B.H. Harris...met with a most painful accident Wednesday morning at Butte Falls. Mr. Harris was opening the flume, standing in front of the gate, when suddenly the rushing water raised the gate and washed Harris away under a velocity of hundreds of pounds' pressure. Mr. Harris was carried along with the stream, thrown down a rocky embankment of 30 or more feet, from which he was hurled 30 or 40 feet below against the projecting rock... Mr. Harris, although badly injured, retained his senses and crawled to



the shore. ... Mr. Harris in not internally injured. There is no serious injury to the spinal column... Dr. Holt, who has been to see him, says no serious injuries have been sustained.<sup>53</sup>

In April 1908 the District court of Oregon authorized a private sale of the remaining Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company's assets. The property was conveyed for \$39,271.18 to Bert Harris who now represented the Dewing interests. The mill property and the town lots owned by the now bankrupt company, changed hands. The sale included:

...A certain equity in an hotel and barn building, also a certain water right in Big Butte Creek, ...together with the dam, flume, saw-mill, shingle mill, planing mill and other mill machinery, water wheels and one small steam saw-mill near Eagle Point in said County...<sup>54</sup>

With no transportation system in place, lumber production at the sawmill slowed in the summer of 1908:

The sawmills are not running more than half the time, being afraid no sale will be found for the output. Already the supply is in excess of the demand. Getting lumber out is always a problem.<sup>55</sup>

In the spring of 1909 work at the mill resumed, but tensions flared alarmingly between the employees and an unpopular manager. In late May, W.S. Dewing, his wife and a small group of associates left Michigan for a visit to their holdings in eastern Jackson County. Shortly before the group arrived in Butte Falls the labor problems at the sawmill took a near violent turn:

There was quite an excitement in our midst on Tuesday upon the arrival of Manager Reineke with a load of men to take the place of the local strikers. It seems there is some dissatisfaction with Mr. Reineke and the local petitioned Mr. Harris to remove Reineke. This Mr. Harris refused to do and set about employing men from the valley to do the mill work. When the valley men arrived at the falls trouble at once began.

Judge Pentz happened to be on the ground and he at once instructed Deputy Sherrif Claspell to conserve the peace and to file a complaint against any one using threats, intimidation of violence to prevent the men from working or to quit their employment and not to permit any disturbance of the peace. Mr. Reineke and his



men were also assured that they would be protected and the mill property also. To this end Deputy Claspell was given instructions, and the men warned, that while they might use peaceable measures to persuade the new arrivals from working yet, that violence would not be permitted.... These counsels seemed to quiet the trouble and all is peaceful at this writing...<sup>56</sup>

Within days of this incident, the Dewing party, accompanied by Bert Harris, arrived in Butte Falls. The Medford *Daily Tribune* explained the purpose of the visit:

Mr. Dewing's object in visiting Medford at this time is to get closely in touch with Pacific & Eastern railroad matters and determine upon a plan by which he will be able to get lumber to the market. He has considered the advisability of building an electric line to the falls from Medford and it may be that he will decide to do this. B.H. Harris, his local representative, accompanied the party to the timber... Dewing Bros. had a mortgage against the old Medford & Crater Lake railroad [for] money advanced in its construction...<sup>57</sup>

Shortly afterwards, the newspaper quoted Mr. Dewing directly regarding his plans at Butte Falls:

"As soon as there is a road built to Butte Falls," said Mr. Dewing, "we shall proceed to develop our timber on a large scale. We bought the lands for an investment and will hold them if necessary for several years, but, of course, they will increase in value with the building of such a road so that the timber can be marketed."

"We have no plans for building a road, electric or otherwise, to this timber belt unless we gain possession of the Pacific & Eastern road through a mortgage we hold on it for \$10,000. In that case we will ourselves extend the line to the timber belt, whether immediately or not I cannot say."

"I do not wish in any way to have my remarks construed as a threat against the men who are at work extending the present line to the timber. I want to see the line built, and will aid if possible in the work."<sup>58</sup>

The Butte Falls correspondent to the *Daily Tribune* reflected the views of several local residents, writing:



These gentlemen inspected their property interests, reviewed the labor situation and planned an outline of future action. We sincerely hope that their impressions were favorable and that much good will come of their visit. We welcome capital and capitalists, and stand ready to encourage by word and act every movement looking to the advancement of our town....<sup>59</sup>

A month later, in July 1909, work had progressed on the railroad line:

As fast as a crew of 30 men and a number of teams can work, the Pacific & Eastern railroad is being pushed on towards Butte Falls... To date over three miles of roadbed has been graded and a mile of track laid. The work will be carried on through the summer or until Butte Falls is reached, a distance of 17 miles.

...As a result a great impetus has been taken on in realty transactions both in Eagle Point and in Butte Falls... In the neighborhood of Butte Falls, timberland transactions are continually taking place.<sup>60</sup>

In 1909, a short distance upstream from the sawmill, workers constructed a small ditch and reservoir obtain additional water from Ginger Creek, a tributary of Big Butte Creek.

Early in 1910, Bert Harris resigned, or was fired from, his position with the Dewing Brothers. He sold his remaining interest in the mill property to W.S. Dewing. The transaction included:

All the unsold logs and lumber on the above land, sections 10 and 11; also all the machinery on the grounds or in the mill at Butte Falls, Oregon; also a ton of flat iron and a spur gear arrangement for log haul and a saw arbor now at the freight house at Medford, Oregon; also all accounts now due and payable on and after this date from the sale of lots in Butte Falls... also all water rights... The intention being by this bill of sale to sell to the party of the second part everything owned by the party of the first part appurtenant to the above described premises.<sup>61</sup>

In 1910, hopes of the community rose as the Pacific and Eastern Railroad pushed toward Butte Falls. The sawmill production increased with the line's construction. Ernest Smith recalls that the mill "cut a lot of railroad ties for the P and E Railroad..."<sup>62</sup>



Charlie Patton remembered the hard work involved in completing the railroad track. Particularly daunting was handling the large fir timbers cut for trestles:

They had crews that were building the trestles. They couldn't get the train through and material in until the track was laid. They hauled that in...Butte Falls Lumber Company, they had a mill there... They sawed lots of the timbers that went into those trestles. Lots of long timbers...I worked there for quite a long while ...at that mill, and one of my jobs there one year was handling those timbers. It was very, very... hard work when you had to do it...<sup>63</sup>

With rail transportation into Butte Falls imminent, W.S. Dewing and his associates were ready to develop their interests. They sent civil engineer Harry D. Mills out from Michigan as superintendent and engineer at the sawmill.<sup>64</sup> Mills immediately began a series of improvements at the mill, projects expected to take two years to complete.<sup>65</sup> Local residents eagerly awaited the changes. The newspaper reported:

Several... [homes] are just waiting for lumber to start building homes. Our mill is getting out lumber as fast as possible but has not all the machinery placed as yet, but will soon be able to supply the demand.<sup>66</sup>

In late August the work on an addition to the mill neared completion:

Our mill is fast approaching a condition of completion, being nearly equipped with new and modern machinery and large addition made and many other improvements added so that we can furnish building, railroad and other hard materials. Superintendent Netherland and Manager Mills have worked hard and diligently to complete the plant and deserve great credit for the way they have advanced work.<sup>67</sup>

On October 27, 1910, in Michigan, W.S. Dewing, Charles Dewing and two associates incorporated the Butte Falls Lumber Company with \$100,000 capital stock, stating in their incorporating document, that the nature of their business was, "buying and selling timber and manufacturing and selling lumber and lumber products."<sup>68</sup> Three weeks later, on November 15, 1910 the first Pacific and Eastern train arrived in Butte Falls.<sup>69</sup> When finally completed, the line did not run adjacent to the sawmill at the falls, but to a depot across town.



In 1911, under the supervision of engineer Mills, the Butte Falls Lumber Company continued improvements on the sawmill. The company leased Ginger Creek waters to the Pacific and Eastern Railroad Co. for use in its water tank at Butte Falls. Information presented before the Board of Control of the State of Oregon stated:

...All surplus water to be discharged into claimants flume, claimant is now laying pipe line from the Railroad tank to the saw mill, and the same will be completed within thirty days. Pipe was laid by claimant from the railroad tank to site of claimant's water tank for fire protection at its mill, and claimant intends to use the surplus water for power in its mill, by discharge into its flume above the mill.<sup>70</sup>

By July 1911 Butte Falls Lumber Company sawmill employees worked steadily to meet the demand lumber for construction.<sup>71</sup> While increasing the sawmill's capability, the lumber company continued to sell lots in Butte Falls and construct houses to rent to workers. Zelda Edmonson, Butte Falls area resident, recalled:

The company built and rented the houses to the various employees. One where Charlie Ferguson lived, Hunsaker lives now. It was named the "Main Street" of the town. But it isn't the main street now...Where Finchums live, those were the original houses in town. Other builders came in, bought a little piece of ground, or it was probably donated to them if they were going to build.<sup>72</sup>

At the end of July the sawmill closed down operations for installation of new equipment.<sup>73</sup> Construction began on a new penstock and workers reconstructed the flume to increase the grade to two feet in the six hundred-foot length of the flume. Plans called for new water wheels. One was a McCormack wheel that used 3326 cubic feet per minute; the other wheel consisted of a pair of twenty-three inch Sampson Turbines that used 7520 cubic feet per second.<sup>74</sup>

During the summer of 1911, with rumors persisting regarding expansion of the railroad line east of Butte Falls, some residents talked of incorporating the little community as a municipality.<sup>75</sup> The *Medford Mail Tribune* noted, "Butte Falls is a fast growing town and is bound to make an important business center as the P. & E Railway will make an extension of its line before many months..."<sup>76</sup> The newspaper additionally stated:



Butte Falls is progressing rapidly, and building operations are many, but some difficulty is experienced in obtaining lumber as the mill cannot keep up with the demand.<sup>77</sup>

Intense disagreement erupted between those who supported incorporation for Butte Falls and those who opposed the move. Local businessmen and some residents favored incorporation. The Butte Falls Lumber Company, owner of many lots in the town, protested that incorporation would unfairly burden them with increased property taxes.<sup>78</sup>

Additional conflict arose over the ownership of water rights on Ginger Creek:

It is said that there is likely to be some trouble over the Ginger Creek springs water. Some local parties have filed on these waters and placed the papers in escrow to be handed over by deed of conveyance, to the town authorities when the town is incorporated while on the other hand the mill company is said to have deeded all their rights to the railroad.<sup>79</sup>

Early in July the Jackson County Court reviewed a petition signed by 47 "qualified electors... praying for an order forming, organizing and establishing the said territory into a Municipal Corporation to be designated and known as the town of Butte Falls."<sup>80</sup>

In mid-July the Court issued an order calling for an election in the matter of "incorporating the little village among the timber."<sup>81</sup> As the *Medford Mail Tribune* reported:

The order followed a hard fight [between] many opponents and adherents of the movement. The original petition asking that an election be called covered a large area of land in that neighborhood. The new petition cut this down considerably...<sup>82</sup>

The question of incorporating Butte Falls will soon be submitted to a vote of the residents and from what can be gathered around, the vote will be close with odds in favor of the protestants, as they argue that the town is not ready for such a step at this time, and that the property holders are not financially able to meet the necessary expense and not enough people are living in the town. It appears that the petition for incorporation was padded and many of the names in it are not bona fide residents.<sup>83</sup>



The newspaper's Butte Falls correspondent expressed the frustrations felt by local residents with the Michigan capitalists:

... If the Dewing interests would introduce industrial plants and begin to move the timber our town would boom and rapid advancement be made but we cannot do much with these interests simply holding on awaiting a fortunate turn in their investment. People should have work, constant work and the matter largely rests with the timber owners.<sup>84</sup>

The new depot of the P. & E. road is finished and is one of the most beautiful and convenient railroad structures erected along the line. ... The freight business of the P. & E. road is rapidly on the increase, but it will not get its due nor receive its property, deserved patronage until there is a move in the timber lands and the erection of manufactories and the shipment of timber.<sup>85</sup>

On August 1, 1911 Butte Falls citizens went to the polls. The next day's paper held the results:

By a narrow margin of six votes Butte Falls voted in favor of incorporation Tuesday at one of the most hotly contested elections ever held in that section of the county. The result of the election will be filed with the county court at once and the necessary order will be issued making the little village in the timber a full fledged town.<sup>86</sup>

The Court recorded the vote:

...It now appearing by proof filed herein that due and legal notice of said election was given as required by law, and the said order of this Court, and upon a canvass of the votes cast thereat it satisfactorily appears that 72 qualified voters voted at said election; and upon the question of incorporation there were 36 votes in favor of and 30 votes against said incorporation.<sup>87</sup>

At the time of incorporation Butte Falls had a school, general store, post office, bank, hotel, hardware store and several homes.<sup>88</sup> The town was soon granted water rights on Ginger Creek and a water system was installed. A reservoir provided ample water pressure through gravity flow.<sup>89</sup> Following incorporation the Butte Falls Lumber Company deeded to the town of Butte Falls, Lot 1 in Block 15:



...To be used by the Town of Butte Falls for the purpose of erecting thereon a Jail, Town Hall and Hose House exclusively. If not used for purposes above named, said lot shall revert to Butte Falls Lumber Company.<sup>90</sup>

With the railroad connecting Butte Falls to the Southern Pacific's main line in Medford, things looked bright for the town. As a Forest Service publication of the time noted, "...Butte Falls, which lies but [a short distance] from the forest boundary, is even now a lumber camp of some importance with a well-equipped sawmill."<sup>91</sup>

The local commercial club published an enthusiastic promotional piece. Opportunities, it seemed, were unlimited:

Tributary to Butte Falls is eight billion feet of standing timber... Big Butte River, upon which Butte Falls is located, is one of the finest power streams on the coast- a power that is already being utilized to operate lumber mills, of which there are half a dozen scattered throughout the district....

Opportunity beckons the home-seeker and the manufacturer to Butte Falls. The adjacent region is rich in natural resources. The cleared forest land is the best orchard soil in the valley. Timber awaits the millman for sash and door and box factories, for paper mills and for furniture manufactories.

...Few people in the Rogue River Valley have any idea of the magnitude of 8,000,000,000 feet of timber, both from a tonnage and payroll standpoint. It would require seven sawmills, cutting a thousand feet each day for 300 days in a year for a term of 40 years to cut 8,000,000,000 feet of timber. This is equivalent to 35 carloads a day, or over 10,000 cars a year during the entire 40 years...

After the timber is cut a large portion of the land can be cleared and used for agriculture and fruit purposes, the elevation and slope being ideal and the soil ...adapted for fruit of all kinds. As the timber disappears, orchards will take the place of the forests, as the land can be purchased after the timber is cut at a very nominal cost....<sup>92</sup>

The promoters' hoped for expansion in the area was not realized but Butte Falls developed steadily as the mill cut timber for shipment to the lower interior valley and



the Southern Pacific Railroad. In the years before World War I, the mill cut materials for building construction that boomed as a growing population sought materials for new homes. Workers cut sugar pine for patterns and yellow pine for fruit packing boxes. Mill employees additionally cut and shipped countless loads of firewood for shipment to the Southern Pacific Line and San Francisco.<sup>93</sup>

Charlie Patton recalled:

The Butte Falls Lumber Company enlarged the mill. I worked there before the war...It was seasonal work. They didn't do anything much in the wintertime... Later on—they worked in the winter, but for a long, long time they didn't work in the winter. Our common labor in the mill was usually about \$2 for 10 hours. You worked ten hours, six days a week then. If you were on special work, you would get more – maybe two and a half. Well, I can remember that some of 'em got up around two dollars and eighty some cents. But I only got about \$2.50...Usually there was no over-time, Because ten hours was about enough anyway...We worked hard...<sup>94</sup>

During World War I, the mill, with a 50 MBF capacity, worked steadily cutting pine lumber and Douglas-fir railroad ties for shipment to France, yarding the logs down the slopes to Big Butte Creek with their steam powered Tacoma donkey engine.<sup>95</sup> Elga Abbott, who worked during the War taking lumber off the saw and lining it up for the edger, estimated that the mill employed twenty to twenty-five men making fifty cents per hour.<sup>96</sup>

Much of the year, the road down to the mill and the hillside above it were too wet, to haul lumber up to town. The Butte Falls Lumber Company built a narrow gauge railroad line up the incline and hauled logs up on an endless cable. The material was then hauled by a hard-tired truck to a lumberyard and planing mill at the end of Oak Street, where the Forest Service complex now stands. From there the lumber went out on the Pacific and Eastern Railroad to Medford. <sup>97</sup>

Just as the War ended, the Pacific and Eastern Railroad experienced a serious accident. The Medford Mail Tribune's Butte Falls correspondent described the near disaster:

Thursday we had a regular train wreck on the P. & E. R.R. As the train was coming out from Butte Falls loaded with five cars of logs, a car of ties and two box cars, an empty flat car and the passenger



coach, one of the logs jarred off the top of one of the cars, causing the derailment of four of the log cars and the passenger car...the conductor... detached the cars that were wrecked and transferred the passengers to an empty flat car, using railroad ties for seats and came out to Eagle Point. <sup>98</sup>

After the end of World War I, the mill continued operating for a time, but work soon slowed. Charlie Patton worked at the mill for some months after the war ended, but recalls that it "finally folded up."<sup>99</sup> Jeff LaLande explained:

At the end of the war...things quickly turned sour. By 1918 the company had exhausted its reserve of accessible timber and the mill permanently closed down. The same year the Pacific and Eastern, whose operating expenses and always far-exceeded revenues, stopped regular rail service. The picture at Butte Falls suddenly looked bleak.<sup>100</sup>

#### **1919-1925 "Together With the Sawmill Upon Said Premises..."<sup>101</sup>**

The closing of the Pacific and Eastern Railroad line was the final blow. Late in January 1919 the bad news came:

According to orders... operation on the Pacific and Eastern Railroad, owned by the Hill interests, ceases tonight and the railroad will be sold in a fortnight. Receiver [W.F.] Turner offered to keep the railroad in operation for several months longer, provided Medford citizens and Butte Falls timber owners put up a \$25,000 cash bond to insure against loss in operation. The railroad has been operated at a loss since its construction, the timbermen, upon whose promise to manufacture it was built, failing to keep their word.

...Closure brings about a crisis which it is expected will speed up affairs and may jar the large timber owners, who are the principal ones affected into active co-operation. As most of the timber owners reside in the east, the committee is handicapped in securing immediate action.<sup>102</sup>

The following day's report was equally grim:



In compliance with the order of the receiver, the Pacific and Eastern crew made their last trip to and from Butte Falls Thursday, and operation has been ceased. The mills and logging camps at Butte Falls were closed down and about 100 men who were working there came down on the last train. The average payroll of those employed is over \$500 in Butte Falls alone. Medford will suffer as heavily if not more, by the shutting down of the local mills and lumber yards and the railroad. The largest payrolls in the county are wiped out and await action by Medford for restoration.<sup>103</sup>

But restoration did not come and the mill above the falling water stood quiet for several years. The Butte Falls Lumber Company retained ownership of the property. Elga Abbott recalls that he and other men went down to the mill and cut up logs that remained in the pond and "sent them down the flume to the sawmill."<sup>104</sup> These mill was restarted at that time in order to mill this remaining lumber.

The Butte Falls Lumber Company continued to sell lots in the town of Butte Falls through 1919. They did, however, fail to pay taxes on some of their property and also reneged on paying some of their creditors. The Pacific Engine and Equipment Company, for example, filed an attachment against the firm in January 1920.<sup>105</sup>

In the early 1920s James N. Brownlee, owner of a pine mill in Mississippi, and Millard D. Olds, a wealthy lumberman from Michigan, bought the Pacific and Eastern Railway in addition to tracts of timber in the Butte Falls area. Jeff LaLande noted that the two men formed a partnership in which they would haul logs on Old's railroad down into Medford where they would be made into lumber at Brownlee-Olds mill.<sup>106</sup>

John S. Owen, described by LaLande as one of the great "lumber barons" of Eau Claire, Wisconsin had acquired large timber tracts in the years before the First World War. In 1924 he bought Brownlee-Olds sawmill and railroad and, with other northern Wisconsin lumbermen, incorporated the Owen-Oregon Lumber Company.<sup>107</sup> Later in the same year the Owen-Oregon Lumber Company bought most of the Butte Falls Lumber Company holdings in the Big Butte Creek watershed. These purchases, along with those from several other corporations, were part of a move to consolidate approximately 50,000 acres of timberland.<sup>108</sup>

On January 14, 1924 the Butte Falls Lumber Company filed documents with the State of Oregon Corporation Department, withdrawing from business in the state. In October of that year the Owen-Oregon Lumber Company purchased the remaining Dewing property:



...Together with the saw mill located upon said premises, including all machinery, equipment, tools, and paraphernalia of every kind and nature in, upon or about said premises, or in any manner used in connection therewith, including about 8000 lineal feet of Tee rail, twenty (20) sets of Truck wheels, and all other logging outfit and equipment, including rails, engines, donkeys, and all other machinery, equipment and supplies of every nature used in connection with said mill, and the previous logging operations of the grantor.

...Also the water right of the granter to the use of 128 second feet of the waters of Big Butte Creek for power purposes, together with a secondary right to use 53 second feet of said waters for said purposes, including all dams, ponds, flumes, water wheels, and all other accessories whatever, the same being principally located upon the lands above described.<sup>109</sup>

Interested solely in timberlands, Owen-Oregon Lumber Company, with its own large mill in Medford, had no need for the old Butte Falls Lumber Company sawmill. Elga Abbott recalls helping dismantle the structure. Various parts were transported to other sawmills. The buildings were torn down and the materials hauled up to Butte Falls where they were recycled for use in the construction of two houses and a garage.<sup>110</sup>

In the late 1920s, increased timber cutting on the high plateau east of Butte Falls brought new development in the community. The Butte Falls Highway was graded and graveled to provide year-round access to valley markets for vehicles and 1926 saw construction of a new, modern high school.<sup>111</sup>

The Great Depression, however, brought hard times. After defaulting on a large bond payment to Baker, Fentress and Company in 1931, Owen-Oregon Lumber Company passed into receivership. In August 1932 the company was sold to Baker-Fentress Bondholder's committee and immediately reorganized as the Medford Corporation.<sup>112</sup>

World War II brought new demands for wood products and the post-war years saw extensive and steady requirements for materials for building construction. The Medford Corporation flourished for several decades. In later years, the Medford Resources Company, composed of several separate organizations, combined to take over the Medford Corporation holdings. Superior Lumber Company took



responsibility for the former Butte Falls Lumber Company mill site and the surrounding area.<sup>113</sup>

Today, the mill site remains above the falling water. Concrete footings that extend over an extensive area reveal the former structure's footprint. As they have for the seventy-five years since the mill came down, people visit to admire the falls or for occasional fishing.<sup>114</sup>

In the years since Native American culture ended and settler culture evolved, this site on Big Butte Creek has seen many changes. While there have been great differences in human activity at the falls, there has also been continuity. From fishing resource to sawmill, this site above Big Butte Creek has played a critical role in the area.

The future may hold new uses for this land. Possibilities include interpretative exhibits, partial reconstruction of the mill at a specific point in its history, or development of another structure at the location. The falls on Big Butte Creek has a long and significant association with the area. New decisions concerning the site will determine the next chapter for Butte Falls and the land above the stream.



## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Genevieve Pisarski Sage, Oral History Interview with Charles I. Patton, January 12, 1977. Southern Oregon Historical Society, Tape 56, 76-77.
- <sup>2</sup> A.G. Walling, *History of Southern Oregon: Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties*. Portland, Ore: A.G. Walling, 1884, 308.
- <sup>3</sup> Jeffrey M. LaLande, *Prehistory and History of the Rogue River National Forest: A Cultural Resource Overview*, U.S. Forest Service, Rogue River National Forest, 1980, 120-121.
- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>5</sup> Lewis L. McArthur, *Oregon Geographic Names*, Portland, Oregon, Oregon Historical Society, 1974, 100.
- <sup>6</sup> A.G. Walling, 308.
- <sup>7</sup> General Land Office Survey, Township 35 South, Range 2 East, July 19, 1855.
- <sup>8</sup> This property would later be the site of Butte Falls. B.F. Dunlap and the Bealls received homestead patents in 1873. (Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 6, p. 210 and Vol. 5, p. 760.) Susan Hukill and Joseph Kelly later acquired Dunlap's holdings and William Ulrich acquired the Beall's land, (Deeds, Vol. 13, p. 523; Vol. 37, p. 531). See also Rawlings Map of Jackson County, c. 1895, Southern Oregon Historical Society Collection; Barbara Hegne, *Country Folk, Butte Falls, Derby, Dudley*, 1989, 41.
- <sup>9</sup> LaLande, Jeffrey, *History of the Rogue River National Forest*, 129.
- <sup>10</sup> McArthur, 66.
- <sup>11</sup> LaLande, *Prehistory and History of the Rogue River National Forest*, 135.
- <sup>12</sup> John Leiberg, "Cascade Range Forest Reserve, Oregon, From Township 28 South to Township 37 South, Inclusive, Together With the Ashland Forest Reserve and Adjacent Forest Regions From Township 28 South to Township 41 South, Inclusive and From Range 2 West to Range 14 East, Willamette Meridian, Inclusive." *Twenty-First Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey*, Part V, Forest Reserves: Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1900, 391.
- <sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 276.
- <sup>14</sup> Jeffrey M. LaLande, *Medford Corporation: A History of an Oregon Logging and Lumber Company*, Medford, Oregon: Klocker Printing Company, 1979, 20.
- <sup>15</sup> Charles I. Patton, Interview, 48-49.
- <sup>16</sup> *Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon*, Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1904, 670; Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 34, p. 136, July 27, 1898.
- <sup>17</sup> Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 37, p. 621.
- <sup>18</sup> LaLande, *Prehistory and History of Rogue River National Forest*, 138.



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<sup>19</sup> Medford Mail, April 8, 1904, 1:3.

<sup>20</sup> *In the Matter of the Determination of the Relative Rights to the Waters of Rogue River and Its Tributaries*, (Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Jackson County), Rogue River Decree, 1914, Testimony Vol. 6, Proof 330.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> Medford Mail, May 20, 1904, 7:4.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, July 8 1904 7:4.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, December 30, 1904, 1: 6.

<sup>26</sup> Barbara Morehouse Hegne, *The Pacific and Eastern Railroad Through Eagle Point to Butte Falls, Oregon.*, 1997, 5.

<sup>27</sup> Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 53, p. 227.

<sup>28</sup> LaLande, *Medford Corporation*, 21; Ernest Smith, "Butte Falls History," "Mss. 333 Southern Oregon Historical Society.

<sup>29</sup> Medford Mail, December 1, 1905 1:2.

<sup>30</sup> Hegne, *Country Folk*, 43.

<sup>31</sup> LaLande, *Medford Corporation: A History*, 22..

<sup>32</sup> Medford Mail, December 1, 1905.

<sup>33</sup> Marjorie O'Harra, "From the Desk of Marjorie O'Harra," Vol. 1, Page 118; LaLande, *Medford Corporation: A History*, 21; Ernest Smith, "Butte Falls History."

<sup>34</sup> *Ashland Tidings*, December 4, 1905.

<sup>35</sup> Jackson County Commissioners Journal, Vol. 12, p. 533.

<sup>36</sup> Medford Mail, January 19, 1906,1:8.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, February 2, 1906, 1:5.

<sup>41</sup> Elga Abbott, "On the Site of the First Butte Falls Sawmill, 1906-1922," Videotaped Interview by Alan Buchta, August 6, 1997.

<sup>42</sup> Medford Mail, February 2, 1906, 1:5.



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- <sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, February 16, 1906, 1:2.
- <sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*; Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 54, 476-477.
- <sup>45</sup> *Medford Mail*, March 23, 1906, 1:3.
- <sup>46</sup> Ernest Smith, "Butte Falls History."
- <sup>47</sup> *Medford Mail*, May 20, 1906, 1:3.
- <sup>48</sup> LaLande, *Medford Corporation: A History*, 21; Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 59, Page 352.
- <sup>49</sup> *Medford Daily Tribune* September 26, 1907 1:3-4.
- <sup>50</sup> Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 61, p. 540; Vernon Arnold, "Butte Falls: A History of Its City Government Since Incorporation in 1911," 1960, Southern Oregon Historical Society; Hegne, *Country Folk*, 44-45.
- <sup>51</sup> *Medford Mail Tribune*, October 29, 1961, 6A.
- <sup>52</sup> LaLande, *Medford Corporation: A History*, 21.
- <sup>53</sup> *Medford Daily Tribune*, January 18, 1908 3:1. Harris suffered personal tragedy when his wife, Vianna, mother of their three young children died on November 1, 1907 at the age of twenty-eight years, (*Central Point American*, November 7, 1907).
- <sup>54</sup> Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 65, p. 230; Vol., 67, p. 483.
- <sup>55</sup> *Medford Daily Tribune*, July 2, 1908, 3:2.
- <sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, June 4, 1909, 1:8.
- <sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, June 7, 1909, 1:3.
- <sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*, June 9 1909, 1:3-4.
- <sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, June 11, 1909, 3:3-4.
- <sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, July 14, 1909, 1: 3.
- <sup>61</sup> Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 77, p. 156.
- <sup>62</sup> Ernest Smith, "Butte Falls History."
- <sup>63</sup> Charles I. Patton Interview, 81.
- <sup>64</sup> Ernest Smith, "Butte Falls History."
- <sup>65</sup> *In the Matter of the Determination of the Relative Rights to the Waters of Rogue River and Its Tributaries.*
- <sup>66</sup> *Medford Mail Tribune*, August 5, 1910, 2:1-2.
- <sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, August 18, 1910.



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- <sup>68</sup> State of Oregon, Office of the Secretary of State, Certificate of Authority to Engage in Business Within the State of Oregon, Oregon State Archives.
- <sup>69</sup> LaLande, *Medford Corporation: A History*, 21-22.
- <sup>70</sup> *In the Matter of the Determination of the Relative Rights to the Waters of Rogue River and Its Tributaries*, Decree.
- <sup>71</sup> *Medford Mail Tribune*, July 12 1911, 7:2.
- <sup>72</sup> *Recollections: People and the Forest*, Oral History Interviews, Volume 3, Rogue River National Forest, 1990, 44. Charleen Brown of Butte Falls states that Mr. Hunsacker lived two house away from the Ferguson residence which is located at 344 Fee Street in Butte Falls. The two Finchum houses are located at 338 and 246 Main Street in Butte Falls.
- <sup>73</sup> *Medford Mail Tribune*, July 14, 1911, 5:6; July 24, 1911.
- <sup>74</sup> *In the Matter of the Determination of the Relative Rights to the Waters of Rogue River and Its Tributaries*, Decree.
- <sup>75</sup> *Medford Mail Tribune*, July 10, 1911, 1:1.
- <sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*, July 2, 1911, 6:3-4.
- <sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>78</sup> LaLande, *Medford Corporation: A History*, 22; Vernon Arnold, 30. N.P. Stoddard of the Butte Falls Incorporating Committee stated that the committee argued with the Butte Falls Lumber Company because the company did not want to be included in the town boundaries. The contenders eventually reached an agreement in which the lumber company would remain outside the corporate limits.
- <sup>79</sup> *Medford Mail Tribune*, July 12, 1911, 7:2.
- <sup>80</sup> Jackson County Commissioners Journal, Vol. 14, p. 179.
- <sup>81</sup> *Medford Mail Tribune*, July 16, 1911, 3: 5.
- <sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*, July 10, 1911, 6:2-3.
- <sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*, August 2, 1911, 1:2.
- <sup>87</sup> Jackson County Commissioners Journal, Vol. 14, p. 189.
- <sup>88</sup> Town of Butte Falls, Comprehensive Plan, 1982.
- <sup>89</sup> *Medford Mail Tribune*, October 29, 1961, 6A.
- <sup>90</sup> Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 97, p. 540.



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- <sup>91</sup> LaLande, *Prehistory and History of the Rogue River National Forest*, 139.
- <sup>92</sup> Butte Falls Oregon 1912, Elga Abbott Collection, Southern Oregon Historical Society.
- <sup>93</sup> Elga Abbott, Videotaped Interview.
- <sup>94</sup> Charles I. Patton, 50;54.
- <sup>95</sup> LaLande, *Medford Corporation, A History*, 22; History of the Rogue River National Forest, 138.
- <sup>96</sup> Elga Abbott, Videotaped Interview.
- <sup>97</sup> *Recollections, People and the Forest*, 44.
- <sup>98</sup> *Medford Mail Tribune*, May 28, 1918, 5:2.
- <sup>99</sup> Charles I. Patton.
- <sup>100</sup> LaLande, *Medford Corporation: A History*, 22.
- <sup>101</sup> Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 153, p. 45.
- <sup>102</sup> *Medford Mail Tribune*, January 30, 1919, 1:7-8.
- <sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*, January 31, 1919. 1:4
- <sup>104</sup> Elga Abbott. Videotaped Interview. Mr. Abbott recalls dismantling the mill in 1921. Deed records indicate that structures and equipment remained on the site in 1924. It is possible that partial removal of materials occurred before final demolition.
- <sup>105</sup> Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 121, p. 462; Vol. 122, p. 174; Vol. 129, p. 161; Vol. 129, p. 186; 267; 339. Pacific Engine and Equipment Co. Against Butte Falls Lumber Co., 3-409 1069-L Attachment.
- <sup>106</sup> LaLande, *Prehistory and History of the Rogue River National Forest*, 139. Ernest Smith states (*Medford Mail Tribune*, October 29, 1961) that the Sugar Pine Lumber Company operated until 1918 when it was bought by Brownlee and Olds. Jackson County Deeds indicate that the Owen-Oregon Lumber Company purchased the mill property in 1924.
- <sup>107</sup> LaLande, *Medford Corporation: A History*, 29.
- <sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>109</sup> Jackson County Deeds, January 5, 1925, Vol. 153, p. 45.
- <sup>110</sup> Elga Abbott Videotaped Interview. Mr. Abbott recalls that the saw and water wheels were taken to the Red Blanket Mill near Prospect and that the headrig may have been taken to Medford. Although he did not identify their location, Mr. Abbott stated that the buildings constructed from mill lumber were still standing.
- <sup>111</sup> Butte Falls Comprehensive Plan.
- <sup>112</sup> LaLande, *Medford Corporation: A History*, 76.



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<sup>113</sup>Jackson County Deeds, 74-709757, July 31, 1974; 88-14435, QCD; Joyce Hailicka, Telephone Interview, December 7, 1998.

<sup>114</sup>Darwin Moore, Telephone Interview, December 7, 1998.



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Hegne, Barbara Morehouse. *Country Folk, Butte Falls, Derby, Dudley*, 1989.

LaLande, Jeffrey M. *Medford Corporation: A History of an Oregon Logging and Lumber Company*, Medford, Oregon: Medford Corporation, 1979.

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APPENDIX 2

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

Dennis Gray







(+) Historic  
COUNTY: Jackson  
TOWNSHIP: 35 south  
RANGE: 2 east  
USGS QUAD.: 7.5' series  
Butte Falls, OR  
PROJECT ACREAGE: 5.5  
SURVEY ACREAGE: 5.5  
LOCATION OF FIELD NOTES  
Cascade Research  
668 Leonard St.  
Ashland, OR 97520

**HISTORIC CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY OF THE  
PROPOSED BUTTE FALLS PARK,  
JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON**

Prepared for:

The Town of Butte Falls

by

Dennis J. Gray  
**CASCADE RESEARCH**  
668 Leonard St.  
Ashland, Oregon 97520

January, 1999



## INTRODUCTION

The Town of Butte Falls is considering the acquisition of a five and one-half acre parcel of land adjacent to the falls on the South Fork of Big Butte Creek just outside of the town limits. The Town of Butte Falls would like to develop the area as a historical park and day use area. In order to explore the potential uses of the parcel, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments contracted with Cultural Solutions of Ashland, Oregon to facilitate and prepare a feasibility study of development options in conjunction with a committee of Butte Falls residents. As part of the feasibility study, Cultural Solutions contracted with Cascade Research of Ashland, Oregon to undertake a historic cultural resource inventory of the subject parcel. Currently, the parcel is owned by Superior Lumber Company. Superior Lumber authorized the surface inventory of the parcel on the condition that only historical resources were to be documented (Rodgers 1998, personal communication). Thus, no reference to Native Americans, the possible presence of prehistoric artifacts, or past Native use of the area is included in this report.

The subject parcel is located in the northeast one-quarter of Section 10, Township 35 South, Range 2 East, Willamette Meridian at an elevation of 2360 feet above mean sea level. The field inventory was conducted on November 30 and December 4, 1998 by Dennis Gray of Cascade Research; Robert Winthrop of Cultural Solutions assisted with the field work on November 30.

## AGENCY CONSULTATION

The records of the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office in Salem, Oregon were researched for previous cultural resource inventories and recorded sites in the area. In addition, the files of the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management were reviewed for recorded sites in the area. Several surveys have been conducted by the Bureau of Land Management in the Big Butte Drainage within two miles of the project area, and several prehistoric lithic scatters have been reported and/or evaluated within the drainage (see Appendix). No sites have been previously recorded within Section 10.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The potential project area is situated along the southwest bank of the South Fork of Big Butte Creek, adjacent to Butte Falls. The terrain within the project area is generally flat and covered with a second growth forest of mixed conifers and hardwoods. Overstory species consist of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, black oak, Pacific madrone, and along the creek edge, willow. Shrubs and ground cover include Oregon



Grape, Himalayan blackberry, bracken and sword fern, as well as mosses and grass. The falls on Butte Creek adjacent to the project parcel cascade over bedrock basalt and have created a lower terrace at modern creek level below the falls. The soils overlying the basalt bedrock within the parcel appear to be thin, and have been heavily disturbed in the past by the construction and operation of a sawmill, as well as by multiple logging episodes. Other disturbances to the parcel include the construction of several two-track dirt and gravel roads, and the use of the site as an informal recreation area.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The upper Rogue River region became known to Euro-Americans after the end of the Rogue Indian Wars of the early 1850's. With the discovery of gold in northeastern Oregon, prospectors from the Rogue Valley created a route over the Cascades, via Diamond Lake, to the gold fields on the John Day River. In the course of pioneering the route in 1853, Crater Lake was discovered. Roads to the Klamath Basin branching off of the John Day Road soon followed. These routes allowed the movement of sheep, cattle, and supplies from the Rogue Valley through the upper Rogue River region to the mines east of the Cascades and settlements in the Klamath Basin during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (LaLande 1980).

The 1862 Homestead Act encouraged the agricultural settlement of the trans-Mississippi West. In the southern Oregon Cascades, these land laws were used to obtain ownership to potentially valuable, but non-arable forest land. Additionally, the Preemption Land Law of 1841 and the Timber and Stamp Act of 1878 enabled the transfer of millions of federal timbered acres to private citizens. During the period 1900-1915 the last and largest land rush took place. Over 3,700,000 acres of Oregon forest land passed from public to private ownership under these acts. □The official record attests to the fact that most post-1900 settlers abandoned their claims immediately after receiving patent and sold their lands to waiting timber companies□ (LaLande 1979).

In 1906 a small logging company called Butte Falls Sugar Pine Company built a sawmill at the falls on Big Butte Creek and laid out the town of Butte Falls on the flat above the mill. The mill and its associated timberlands were sold in 1907 to the Butte Falls Lumber Company. The Butte Falls Lumber Company replaced the original mill on the site (the current project parcel) with a larger structure in 1907. This mill continued to operate through the early part of the century, but was closed in 1918 due to the lack of accessible timber (LaLande 1979).

The Pacific and Eastern Railway Company reached Butte Falls in 1911, and by



1925 the Owen-Oregon Lumber Company began large scale logging activities in the area. Logging initially took place east of Butte Falls where railroad lines were constructed into the forest lands. Logging companies established semi-permanent residences in logging camps in the forest for their timber workers. Over the next several decades railroad logging activities moved north/northeast of Butte Falls. Railroad logging eventually ceased operation in the early 1960s when it became more efficient and less expensive to move logs to the mills via truck (LaLande 1979).

The construction of Lost Creek Dam in the 1970s increased the aquatic recreational opportunities in the vicinity of the current project area. Along with the scenic wonders of Crater Lake National Park and outdoor pursuits such as hiking, camping and hunting, the economy of the upper Rogue River region is today based on recreation, as well as a diminished timber industry.

## RESEARCH DESIGN

Due to the relatively small area involved, and with the knowledge that remains of the 1907 sawmill were located within the proposed project area, the entire parcel was intensively inventoried.

## SURVEY METHODS

A pedestrian survey of the area of proposed effect (APE) was performed on November 30, 1998 by Dennis Gray and Robert Winthrop; recording of the mill site features was accomplished on December 4, 1998. Transects spaced five meters apart were walked northeast to southwest between Big Butte Creek and the two-track road that bounds the APE to the southeast. The Eagle Point Irrigation District Dam formed the survey boundary on the downstream end of the parcel, and the junction of the old flume ditch and Butte Creek bounded the survey on the upstream side of the APE (Appendix). Ground visibility (25%) was adequate for recording the extant historical resources. Alan Buchta of the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management redrew Gray's data using the Medford District's geographic information system (GIS) and ground verified the findings (Appendix). Map data were also collected using a tape and compass.

## SURVEY RESULTS

Footings and piers that once formed the foundation of the Butte Falls Lumber Company sawmill constructed in 1907 cover a large portion of the project area. These



concrete features,

together with the ditch that contained the flume that carried water from Big Butte Creek to the mill, have been designated as temporary historic site number BF-1, and recorded on the appropriate site form (Appendix). Over 50 concrete piers, footings, and foundations were mapped and described during the course of field work. With the exception of a few five gallon fuel tins and a barrel hoop that may have been associated with the mill, no other historical resources were noted. Modern trash (e.g. broken glass, plastic, etc.) was in evidence throughout most of the APE. Also noted were the remains of a plywood and plastic living shelter and a few pieces of wire rope from past logging episodes.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The remains of the Butte Falls Lumber Company sawmill (Site BF-1) are representative of the industry and the time period that led to the founding of the current community of Butte Falls. Thus, the site may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A that states: ☐ Properties can be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history ☐ (National Register Bulletin 1991). Although today these features lack public significance, they could potentially be integrated into an interpretive display within future park development plans. I would recommend that any planned ground disturbing activities in the future avoid the concrete footings and foundations of the mill, as well as the flume ditch.

## DISCLAIMER

No surface survey can guarantee that all possible archaeological remains have been found. Should historic or prehistoric material be discovered during the course of the proposed project, work should be immediately halted in the vicinity of the discovery and a professional archaeologist contacted to evaluate their eligibility to the National Register.



## REFERENCES CITED

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1979 *Medford Corporation: A History of an Oregon Logging and Lumber Company*. Klocker Printing Company, Medford, Oregon.

1980 Prehistory and History of the Rogue River National Forest: A Cultural Resource Overview. USDA Rogue River National Forest, Medford, Oregon.

National Register Bulletin 15

1991 How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. USDI, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division.

Rodgers, B.J.

1998 Representative of the Superior Lumber Company, Butte Falls, Oregon. Personal communication.

[proj1\butte\_falls\arch1a.doc; rev. 5/4/99]



# OREGON CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE RECORD

## ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Permanent No.:  
Agency/Field No.: BF-1  
GIS Polygon No.:

District or Forest: N/A County: Jackson  
Resource Area or Ranger District: N/A

Site Name: Butte Falls Mill Owner: Superior Lumber Co.

Legal Description: NE1/4: SE1/4: NE1/4. Sec 10, T.35s, R.2e ,W.Mer

UTM Zone: 10 Easting: 536100 Northing: 4710120  
USGS 15' Quad: Butte Falls, OR USGS 7.5'Quad: Butte Falls, OR

## ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

Basin: Rogue Province: Cascades  
Sub-Basin: Upper Rogue Elevation: 2360 feet  
Drainage: Big Butte Creek

Primary Landform: Mountain Position: Slope  
Secondary Landform: Stream Position: Edge  
Slope: 0% Aspect: All Bearing:

Vegetation Zone: Hardwood Forest  
On-Site Plant Community: Hardwood Forest

Water Source: Big Butte Creek Distance to Water: Adjacent  
Soils: Silty

## CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE DATA

Site Type: Engineering Struct. SHPO Type:

### Site Characteristics

### Temporal Assignments

Collected: N	Flora: N	Unknown:	Earchaic:	Ehistoric:
Tested: N	RC Dates: N	Epaleo:	Marchaic:	Mhistoric:
Rock Art: N	Strata: N	Mpaleo:	Larchaic:	Lhistoric: Y
Features: Y	Grdstone: N	Lpaleo:		
Fauna: N	Burial: N			

Site Size: 20235 m2 (4047 = acres): 5 Depth of fill: cm.  
Excavated area: m2 Excavated Volume: m3 Site Integrity: 5%

Impacting Agents: Selective harvest/structural decay/recreational use.



MANAGEMENT DATA

Site No.: BF-1

Management Objectives: National Register Status:  
Report Reference: Historic Cultural Resource Inventory of the  
Proposed Butte Falls Park, Jackson County, Oregon

Recorder: Dennis Gray/Cascade Research Date: December 4, 1998

Continuation Sheets: Maps: X Photographs: X Artifact Sketches:  
Site Sketch: X Feature Sketch: X Other:

**Location:** From the public park in the City of Butte Falls, head west on the Butte Falls Highway for approximately 200 meters. Turn right on Falls Road and proceed approximately 1/4 mile to the bottom of the terrace. The remains of the sawmill are adjacent to Butte Falls.

**Environment:** The sawmill site is located on the southwestern edge of the North Fork of Big Butte Creek, adjacent to Butte Falls. Big Butte Creek drops approximately 20 feet over exposed basalt bedrock to form the falls. The site of the sawmill is adjacent to the falls on a relatively flat stream side terrace. The terrace, like the falls, is of basalt with a thin cover of silty soil. At the downstream end of the area of proposed effect there is a lower terrace at stream level, at which is situated a low concrete dam that serves as the take out point for water to the Eagle Point Irrigation District canal. The upper terrace in the vicinity of the falls has been logged several times in the past century, and a number of two-track roads access and cross the terrace.

The vegetation on site consists primarily of a second (third?) growth overstory of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, with a few Pacific madrone and small oaks; blackberries cover the ground surface. The area has been used as an informal recreation area, and modern debris is ubiquitous.

**Site Data:** The site consists of the remains of the Butte Falls Lumber Co. sawmill (ca. 1907-1918). A number of features were identified during the course of inventory, including about 50 concrete piers and foundations (see attached map), the ruins of a concrete and rubble structure that once housed a boiler, a 20' wide ditch that formerly contained a wood flume that brought water to the mill from Butte Creek, and a few large (12" x 12") timbers that have washed down from the mill site and were deposited on the lower terrace. The most prominent feature consists of concrete foundations adjacent to the falls where the overshot water wheel



was positioned.

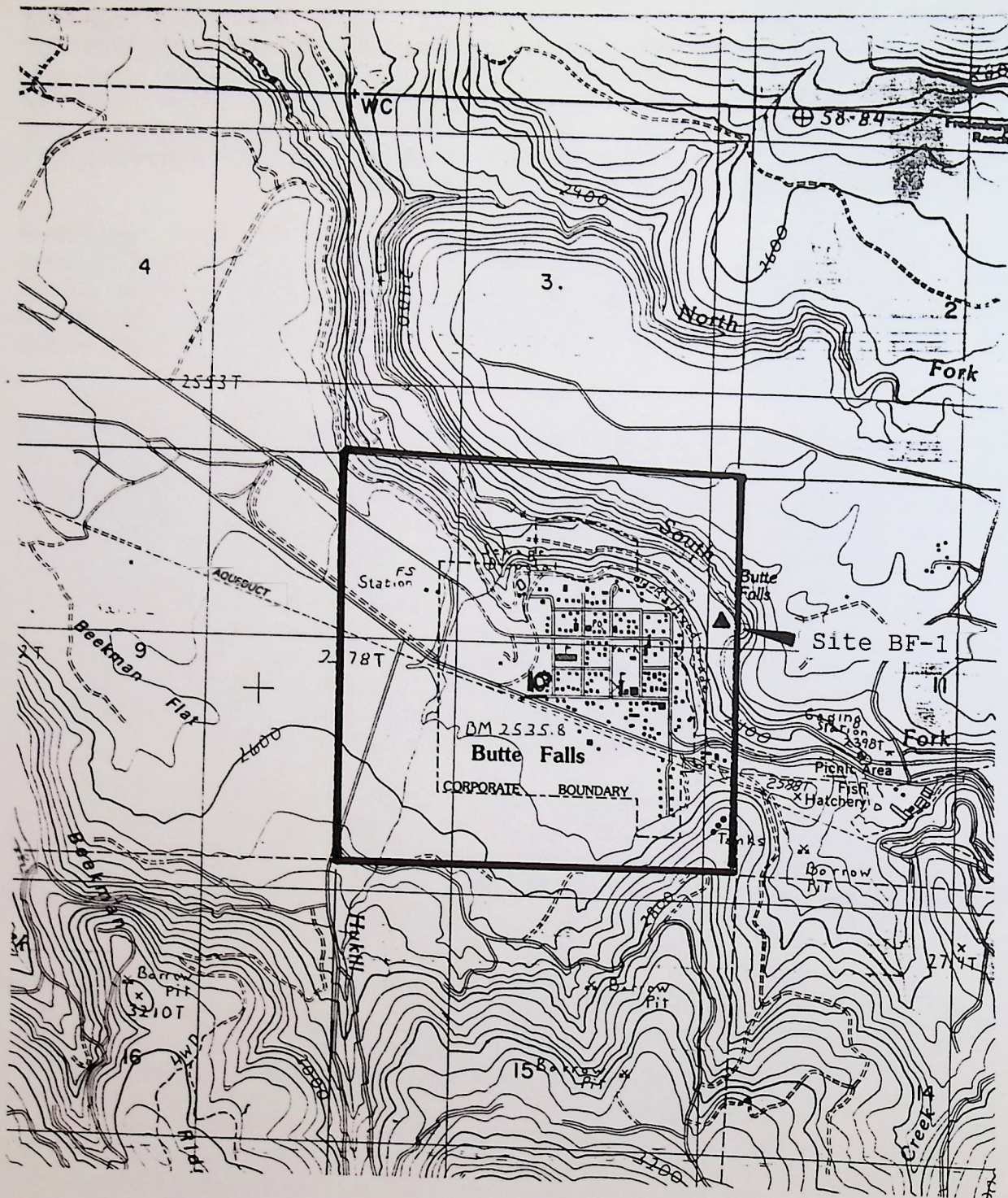
Page 3

Most of the piers are approximately two feet square and either had a 12" by 12" inset to support a post, or a metal 3/4" or 1" threaded bolt positioned in the center. The foundation remains were of various sizes and shapes, and were likely the supports for various types of mill equipment. The piers and foundations are spread over a fairly extensive area adjacent to the falls, west of the end of the flume ditch. With the possible exception of a few five-gallon fuel tins and a barrel hoop, no artifacts associated with the operation of the mill were observed.



Site Location Map

Site Number: BF-1



USGS Quad. Butte Falls, Oregon. T.35 South, R.2 East



irrigation  
dam

survey  
boundary

2-track roads

island

falls

Big Butte Creek

section 10

section 11

Scale: 1" = 111'



flume ditch

survey  
boundary

Project Area Map  
Butte Falls Park



53

timbers

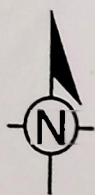
lower terrace

island

Key:

- = Features
- ▲ = Features used as mapping stations
- ↘ = slope direction

Scale: 1" = 37'



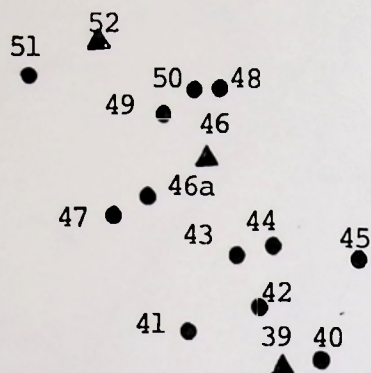
54  
site datum

2-track road

Big Butte Creek

flume ditch

Sketch Map  
Site BF-1



38

37

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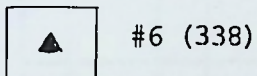
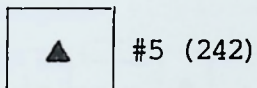
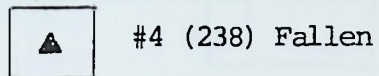
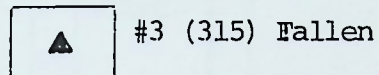
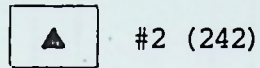
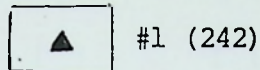
21

20

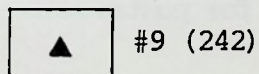
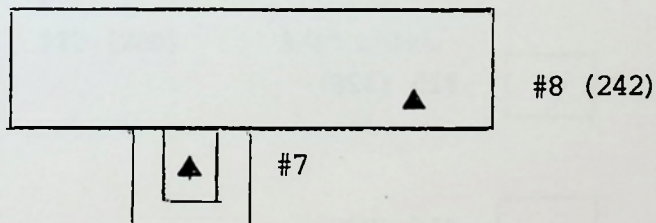


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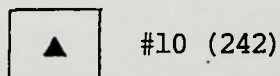
▲ = Feature Datum  
# = Feature Number  
(000) = Long Axis orientation  
in degrees.  
Scale: 1/4" = 1'



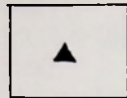
Note: Features 1-6 have 12 x 12" inset for posts.



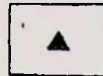
Note: Features 9 & 10 have 12 x 12' inset for posts.



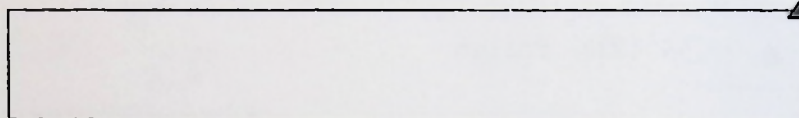




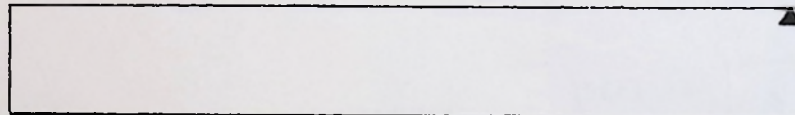
#11 (328), pier with 12 x 20" hole.



#12 (328), pier with 12 x 12" inset for post



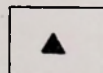
#13 (242)



#14 (242)



#15 (328)



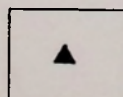
#16 (230)



#17 (242)



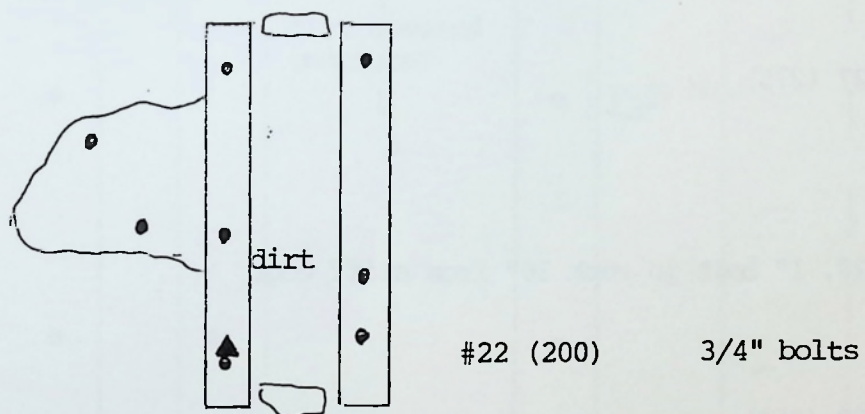
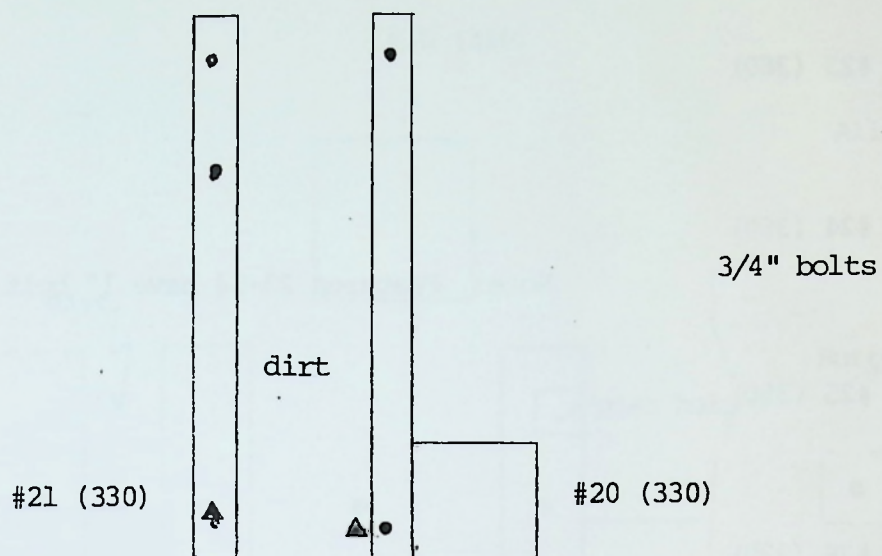
#18 (242)



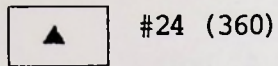
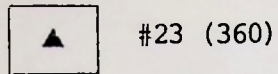
#19 (242)

Note: Features 16-19 have 12 x 12' inset for posts.

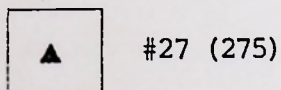
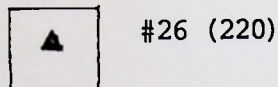
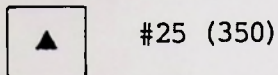




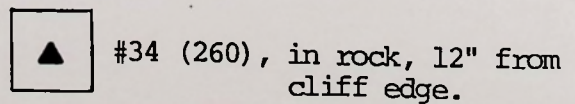
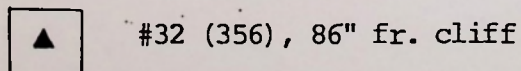
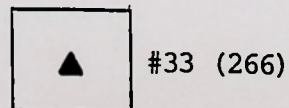
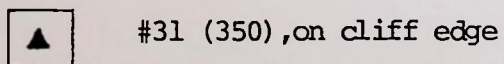
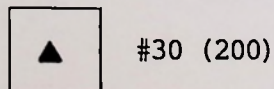
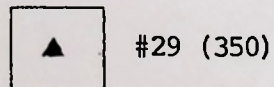




Note: Features 23-34 have 1" bolt in center.



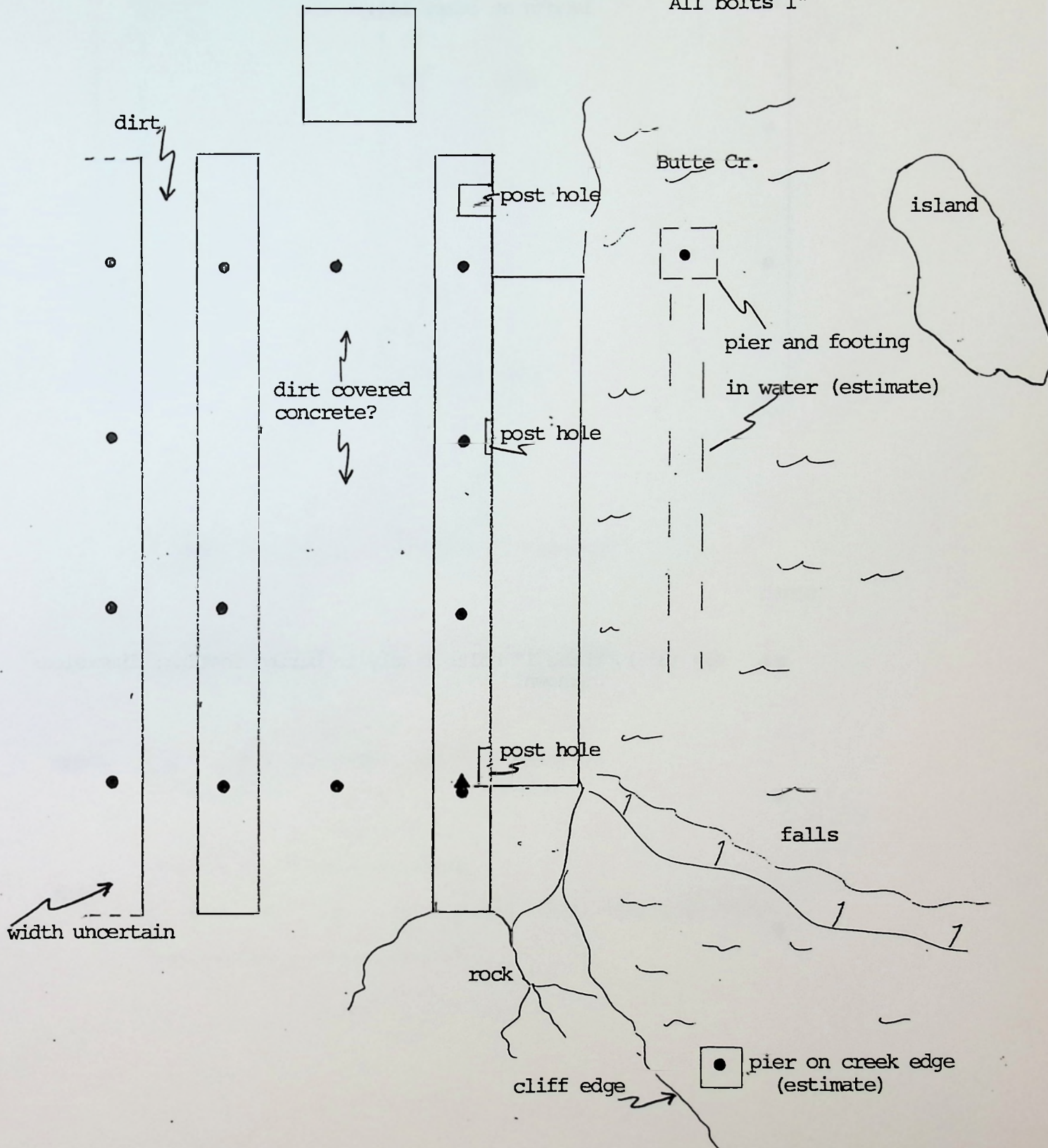
● #28, 1" bolt in rock 36" from cliff edge





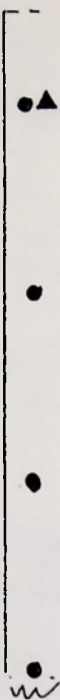
#35 (310)

All bolts 1"



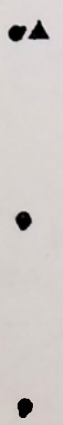


south



#36 (335), four 1" bolts in partially buried footing;  
length at least 14'.

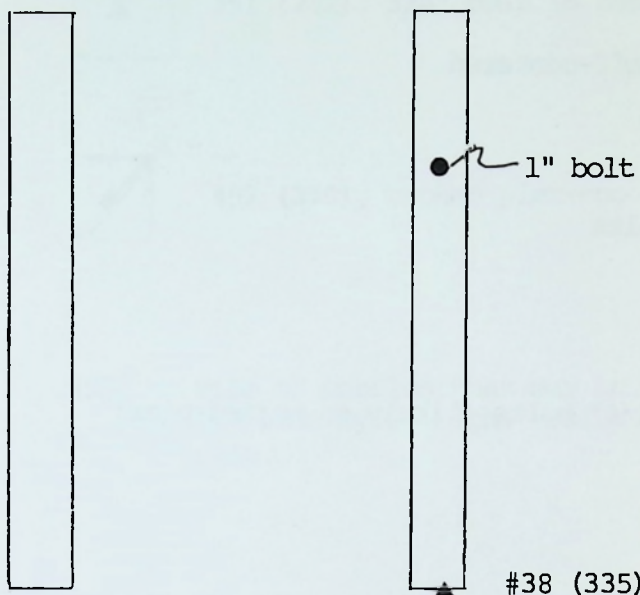
south




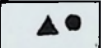
#37 (335), three 1" bolts likely in buried footing; dimensions  
unknown.

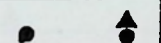


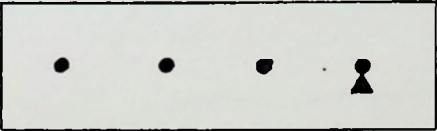
north



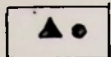
 #39 (242), 3/4" bolt off-centered

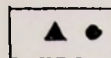
 #40 (242), 3/4" bolt off-centered

south  #41 (330), two 3/4" bolts

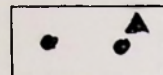
east  #42 (242), four 3/4" bolts



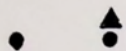
 #43 (242), 3/4" bolt off-centered

 #44 (242), 3/4" bolt off-centered

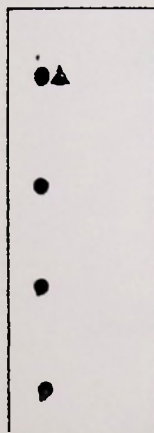
south

 #45 (338), 3/4" bolts

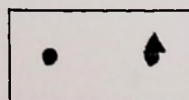
south

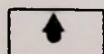
 #46-a (334), two 3/4" bolts (likely on buried pier)


north


 #46 (242), four 3/4" bolts, off-centered

south

 #47 (338), 3/4" bolts with nuts

 #48 (242), 3/4" bolt

 #49 (242), 3/4" bolt

 #50 1" bolt (no pier or footing)





#51 (242), 3/4" bolt in center



#52 (270), broken pier--no bolt.

#53 Pile of cobbles that may be cultural. Pile measures 36' long, by 12' wide by 3' high. Point on site map is located at south end of pile.

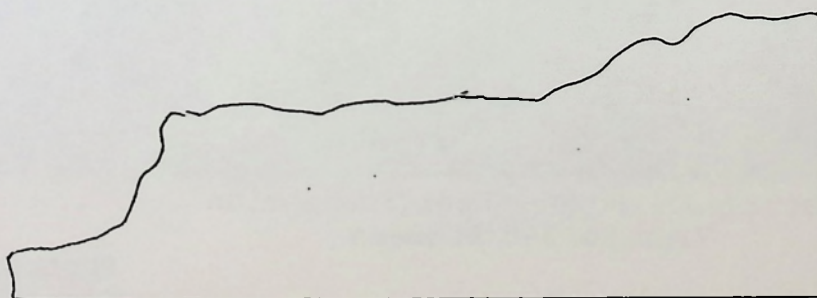
#54 (340), boiler structure

north

3/4" bolt

1/4" bolt

(plan view)



(side elevation)





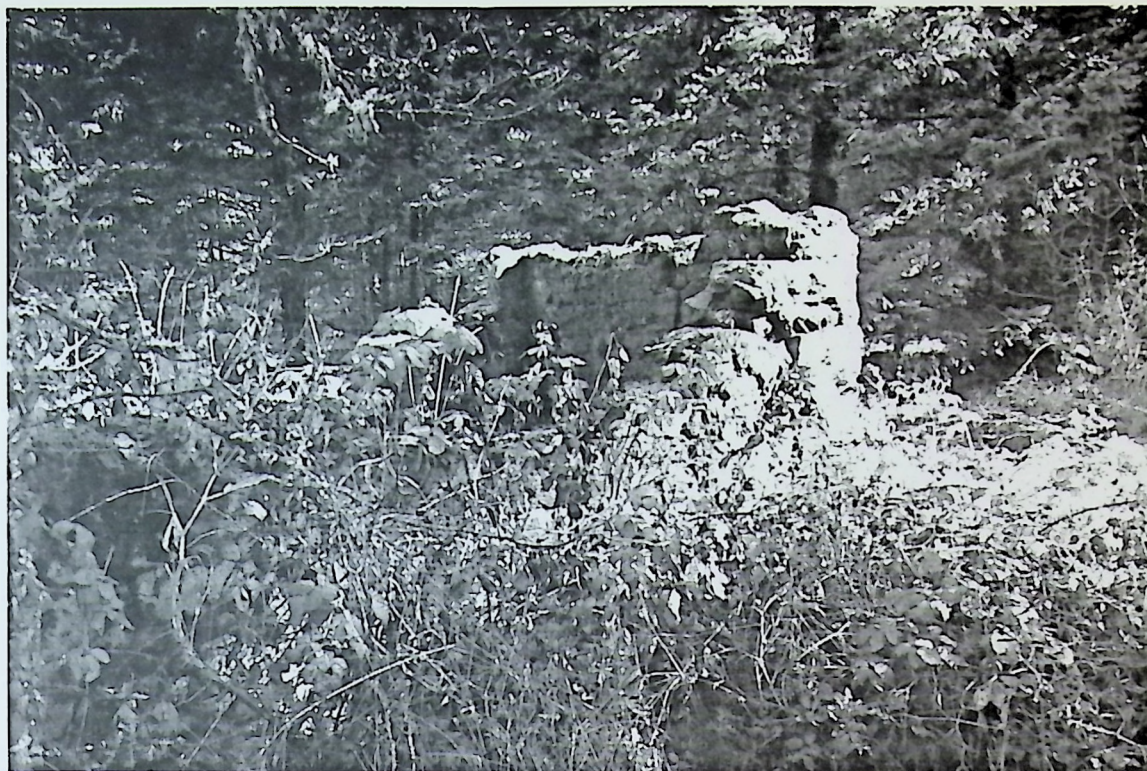
Features 30-32, Piers  
View to 105 Degrees



Feature 35, Power Wheel Foundation  
View to 345 Degrees

Photographs  
Site BF-1





Feature 54, Boiler House  
View to 100 Degrees



Features 7 & 8, Footings  
View to 270 Degrees

Photographs  
Site BF-1





Feature 10, Pier with 12" Inset  
View to 8 Degrees



Features 13 & 14, Footings  
View to 215 Degrees

Photographs  
Site BF-1





Flume Ditch  
View to 174 Degrees



Project Area Overview  
View to 350 Degrees

Photographs  
Site BF-1





Butte Falls  
View to 115 Degrees



Feature 42, Footing  
View to 62 Degrees

Photographs  
Site BF-1





Feature 55, Cobbles  
View to 318



Overview of Mill Site  
View to 80 Degrees

Photographs  
Site BF-1







APPENDIX 3

RESULTS OF LISTING IN THE NATIONAL  
REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office







RESULTS OF LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Eligibility for Federal tax credit: If a property is listed in the National Register, certain Federal tax provisions may apply. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 provides for a 20 percent investment tax credit with a full adjustment to basis for rehabilitating historic commercial, industrial, and rental residential buildings. The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 provides Federal tax deductions for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures. Because tax aspects outlined above are complex, individuals should consult legal counsel, an accountant or the appropriate local Internal Revenue Service office for assistance in determining the tax consequences of the above provisions. For further information on certification requirements, please refer to 36 CFR 67, and 26 CFR 1 and 602.

Consideration in planning for Federal, federally licensed, and federally assisted projects: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that Federal agencies allow for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to have an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties listed in the National Register. For further information, please refer to 36 CFR 800.

Consideration in issuing a surface coal mining permit: In accordance with the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977, there must be consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located. For further information, please refer to 30 CFR 700 et seq.

Qualification for Federal matching-fund grants for historic preservation when funds are available: When funds are available, grant applications are invited once annually after January 1 for projects to begin on the following October 1, which is the beginning of the Federal fiscal year. Grants are awarded competitively since demand invariably exceeds availability of funds. The grants are 50-50 match-funds on a reimbursing basis for allowable costs incurred under terms of a grant agreement.

Special Assessment for Historic Property: Chapter 693 of Oregon Laws 1995 establishes a program whereby owners of property listed in the National Register of Historic Places may make application to "freeze" the assessed value of the property for a 15-year period. The program is designed as an incentive to assist property owners in the preservation of historic resources. The law establishes a review committee to comment on the required submittal of a preservation plan, continues a requirement under the previous program for a public open house once a year, requires installation of a property identification plaque, and allows owners of commercial property to apply for an additional 15-year "freeze" contingent upon implementation of an approved preservation and renovation plan. A preservation plan is defined in law and rule as a written rehabilitation proposal. For further information, please refer to Oregon Revised Statutes 358.475 et seq. and Oregon Administrative Rules 736-50-100 to 736-50-150.

Special Consideration with Regard to Building Code Requirements: Under Section 3403.5 of the Uniform Building Code/Oregon Structural Specialty Code, National Register properties, and other certified historic buildings, are eligible to be considered for waivers of certain normal code requirements in the interest of preserving the integrity of the property.

Consideration in local comprehensive land use planning: Properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are subject to protection under authority of Oregon Revised Statutes 197.772 and Oregon Administrative Rules 660-23-200 relating to historic resources and Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 5. Property owner requests for removing protected status from National Register properties, including those in National Register districts, are not allowed under the state code for comprehensive land use planning.

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	5/4	# of pages	2
To	Bob Wuthrop	From	Julie Orme		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #		Fax #			



Rights of Owners to Comment and/or to Object to Listing in the National Register

Owners of private properties nominated to the National Register have an opportunity to concur with or object to listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 60. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to listing may submit, to the State Historic Preservation Officer, a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property and objects to the listing. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of the portion of the property that the party owns. If a majority of private property owners object, a property will not be listed. However, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall submit the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places for a determination of eligibility of the property for listing in the National Register. If the property is then determined eligible for listing, although not formally listed, Federal agencies will be required to allow for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to have an opportunity to comment before the agency may fund, license, or assist a project which will affect the property. If you choose to object to the listing of your property, the notarized objection must be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office, 1115 Commercial St NE, Salem, OR 97310-1001, by the announced date of review of the proposed nomination.

PUBLIC OWNERS, NOTE: Although comments and statements of objection to listing in the National Register on the part of owners of publicly-held property will be taken into consideration by the Keeper of the National Register, an owner's objection will not automatically preclude listing of a property in public ownership.

If you wish to comment on the nomination of the property to the National Register, please send your comments to the State Historic Preservation Office before the forthcoming meeting of the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation. A copy of the nomination and information on the National Register and the Federal tax provisions are available from the above address upon request.



APPENDIX 4

COLLIER STATE PARK LOGGING MUSEUM  
FACILITY INFORMATION

Oregon State Parks







## The Friends of Collier Memorial State Park Logging Museum

### Logging Museum



Home

History

Collier Connection

The logging museum began in 1947 when the Collier brothers donated a collection of antique logging equipment, some of which is quite rare. Their intent was to show how logging equipment had evolved from the use of oxen and felling axes to modern diesel tractors and trucks. Also spotlighted is the vital role the railroad played in the timber industry.

The park is open year-around for self guided tours that explain the uses and history of many of the exhibits. The tour starts at the blacksmith shed and leads past the horse and ox drawn fresnos that were used to grade road beds for railroads and later trucks. The horse and oxen powered log trucks, stinger tongue highwheels, and slip tongue highwheels give way to the first gasoline powered Caterpillars and the modern logging arch designed to haul larger loads.



The evolution of the steam tractor and locomotive is well represented. One early Baldwin steam locomotive on display was nicknamed "GOP" or "Get Out and Push" because it derailed so often while hauling redwood logs in northwest California. The earliest steam donkey, the Dolbeer Donkey, that used a wanlass type winch and hemp rope to yard logs to a landing is represented, as well its successor.

Dolbeer Donkey

As the tour progresses, it becomes evident that many unique pieces of equipment were preserved. The steam powered Clyde Track Machine, used for laying railroad track, is one of only two known to be in existence today. There too many interesting exhibits to list them all here, but the row of cabins in the Pioneer Villiage have been relocated in the park that show increasing sophistication of design are reminders of the difficulty that the early settlers faced.

The tour winds up at the building that houses the steam plant and chain saw exhibit. This building was given to the museum by the Collier family in memory of E. P. McCornack, the uncle of Cap and Andrew Collier. The steam plant is called Stout Abner after Abner Weed, founder of Weed, California. This steam plant ran the Long-Bell Lumber Co.'s mill in Weed from 1917 through 1964.





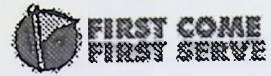
**Relative Location**

US 97, 30 miles N of Klamath Falls

**Related Links**  
[Klamath County](#)  
[Weather forecast](#)  
[Southern Oregon Visitors Assoc.](#)  
[Friends of Collier](#)

**Services**  
 Camping  
 Tent  
 Full hookup  
 Showers  
 Dump station  
 Picnicking  
 Hiking trail  
 Historic resources  
 Museums  
 Historic displays  
 Interpretation  
 Interpretive signs  
 ADA restroom  
 Restrooms

## COLLIER



This park will open for the season in late April.

Collier Memorial State Park features an outdoor museum of historic logging equipment and a relocated pioneer village. As the state's finest logging museum, you'll see rare and antique logging equipment dating to the 1880s as well as more recent pieces. Railroad buffs will enjoy learning about the role the railroad played in logging. You can imagine the rugged woodsmen and the immense task of moving raw timber they tackled with innovation and brute force. The pioneer village gives you another insight into how these families once lived.

The Williamson River and crystal-clear Spring Creek meet in the park. The Williamson River is regionally famous for its quality trout fishery and consistently produces trophy fish. Spring Creek gushes dramatically out of a nearby spring and then paints a picture-perfect scene at it flows through the park.

Whether you come for the day to visit the Logging Museum, Pioneer Village or play along Spring Creek – or even camp amongst the pines along the Williamson River – you'll discover a grand adventure at Collier.

### Vital stats

Open April - October 31.  
 50 full hookup, 18 tent (maximum site 60 feet). This park has laundry facilities. (541)783-2471 or (800) 551-6949.

### Campground rates

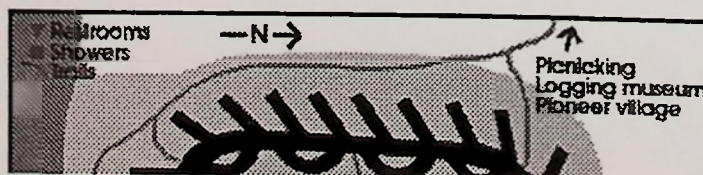
*October 1 to April 30 (Discovery Season)*

Full-hookup: \$14  
 Tent: \$12  
Extra vehicle: \$7

*May 1 to September 30*

Full-hookup: \$17  
 Tent: \$14  
Extra vehicle: \$7

A campground map with site numbers is available as an Adobe Acrobat document. [Click here for the map \(37k\)](#). Viewing the file requires the Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is freely available from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) (clicking here opens a new window).





# Collier Memorial

State Park

## Campground

To day-use area  
picnicking  
logging museum  
pioneer village

Williamson River

B Loop










A Loop

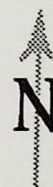
Information  
and self-registration

Amphitheater

To registration booth  
trailer dumping station  
and US Hwy 97

### Legend

-  Showers
-  Flush Toilets
-  Accessible
-  Phone
-  Trails
-  Information board
-  Full hookup
-  Electrical Site
-  Tent Site









APPENDIX 5

CASCADE STREAMWATCH  
FACILITY INFORMATION

Bureau of Land Management







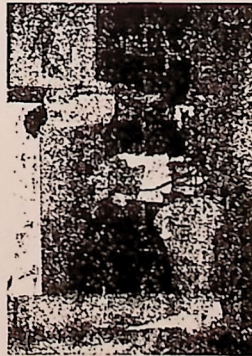


## WELCOME TO

### CASCADE STREAMWATCH

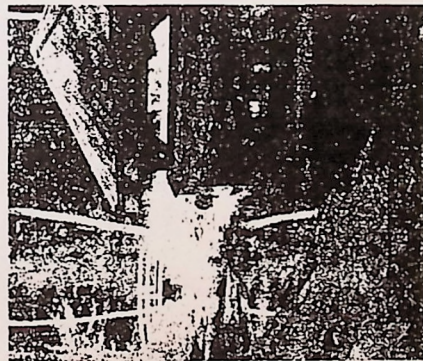
*Immerse yourself in the world of water...*

A very special experience awaits you as you visit Cascade Streamwatch. Here, people of all ages and abilities can learn first hand about watersheds and salmon. Follow the winding trail and explore the connections between people, rivers, wetlands and animals that live here. *Discover, learn and enjoy!*



### CASCADE STREAMWATCH STORY "Scientists for a day, stewards for life"

Cascade Streamwatch is both a place and an innovative education program. The Cascade Streamwatch project is a ten-year collaborative effort by the *Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service*, and the non-profit educational organization *WolfTree, Inc.* to create an opportunity for people to learn about, observe and appreciate some of the Northwest's foremost resources -- water and salmon. Together they, and many other partners, have created one of the premier interpretive sites and science-based resource education programs in the Pacific Northwest. Teachers, schools, businesses, agency staff and people like you have contributed ideas, time and assistance in developing this very special effort.



*Experience the magic of rivers and  
celebrate the miracle of salmon!*

### CASCADE STREAMWATCH TRAIL

A paved and accessible 3/4 mile trail runs adjacent to the Salmon River. Numerous interpretive displays, signs and models focusing on watershed and fisheries are found along this 60 to 80 minute walk. The highlight of the trail is a unique stream viewing building where you can see an underwater "fisheye" view of a stream.

#### *Trails to explore... Wildlife to view!*

The accessible five foot wide trail is paved with a resin product made from trees! This eliminated the need to use petroleum-based asphalt in the fragile riparian area. Boardwalks and ramps offer accessible grades of 8% or less.

Bicycles are allowed along roads but on not the Cascade Streamwatch, Wildwood Wetland Boardwalk and forest trails. Please walk your bikes or park and lock them without blocking trails.



#### *Salmon Wild and Scenic River*







Visitors of all ages enjoy the sights and sounds of the Salmon River. The Salmon is nationally recognized for its outstanding anadromous fish runs, recreation opportunities and scenery. The 33-mile Salmon River is the only river in the lower 48 states protected as a *National Wild and Scenic River* for its entire length -- from its headwaters on Mt. Hood to its confluence with the Sandy River near Brightwood. Wildwood is a wonderful place to enjoy this national treasure, please help us keep it that way!

#### *Location and Information*

Cascade Streamwatch is located within the BLM's Wildwood Recreation Site, 39 miles east of Portland on Highway 26, near Welches, Oregon. If you would like more information about this or other BLM recreation sites, please contact:

Bureau of Land Management  
Salem District Office  
1717 Fabry Road  
Salem, OR 97306  
503-375-5646

#### *Tips for enjoying your Cascade Streamwatch experience:*

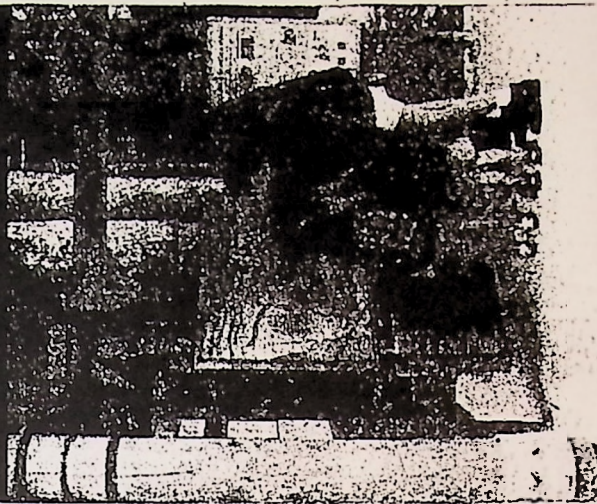
-  Please leash and pick up after your pet.
-  Clean up after picnics and leave sites cleaner than you found them.
-  No glass containers by the river!
-  Amplified music is not allowed.
-  Lock your car and keep valuables out of sight.
-  No fishing, swimming or wading in the side-stream or near the viewing window.

BLM/OR/WA/GA-98/039-4800



Bureau of Land Management  
Salem District

# BLM Oregon CASCADE STREAMWATCH TRAIL





## CASCADE STREAMWATCH TRAIL

**1 Orientation and Information Kiosk**  
The entrance kiosk provides maps and information on the Cascade Streamwatch and Wildwood Wetland trails as well as other facilities available at the Wildwood site.

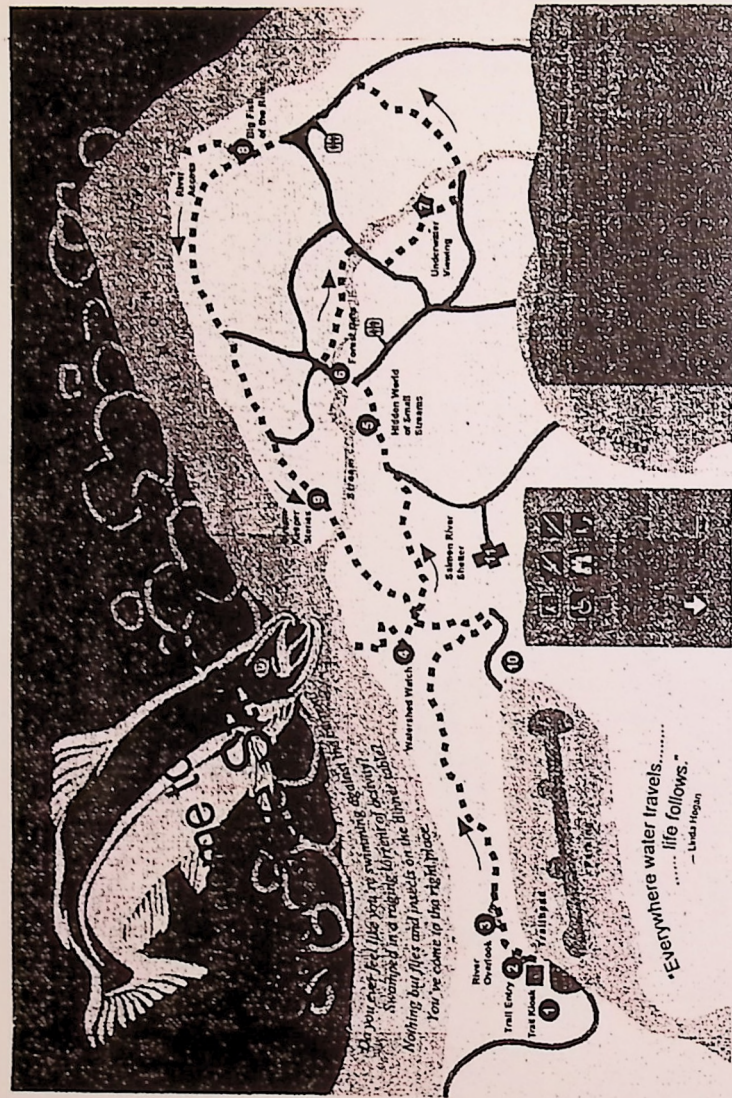
**2 Trail Entry and Streamwalk**  
Visitors to the trail are greeted by several life-size stainless steel chinook salmon splashing through a cluster of boulders. Completed by Oregon artist Norris Peterson, the sculptures invite visitors into a world of fish, stream and forest. The first few feet of the trail represent the important components of Cascade stream habitats—boulders, logs and rootwads. Follow the sound of rushing water as the trail leads to an overlook of the Salmon River.



### 3 River Overlook

The River Overlook provides views of Boulder Ridge and the rushing Wild and Scenic Salmon River. This pristine river originates at the Palmer Snowfield on the flanks of Mt. Hood near Timberline Lodge and joins the Sandy River three miles downstream from here. Flows range from over 11,000 cubic feet per second during floods to as little as 100 cfs during dry summers. From the overlook, the trail follows the river along the top of the steep river terrace.

Watch for unusually large stumps with springboard notches—remnants of early logging—these huge trees were cut by hand over 70 years ago! The trail then winds along a boardwalk as it descends toward the river. *Remember to look for the symbols of salmon set in the trail to guide your way!*



### 4 Watershed Watch

Located on a short spur trail along a terrace just above the river, a three-dimensional scale model of Mt. Hood area shows the 508 square mile Salmon/Sandy River watershed. Another short trail leads to the river and offers a tree-filtered view of Mt. Hood.

### 5 Hidden World of Small Streams

This side-channel stream is very important "off-channel" habitat for young salmon and steelhead, providing shelter and food. Coho salmon also prefer small streams like this for spawning. The trail leads right to the stream's edge where visitors can gain a close-up view of the stream community and occasionally see adult salmon in the fall.

### 6 Forest Gifts

By dropping leaves into the stream, trees and vegetation provide the energy to run this ecosystem! Insects and larvae eat the leaves and they, in turn, are food for fish. Watch for the "story poles" along the trail that explore the role of salmon in Northwest life and culture.

### 7 Underwater Viewing Structure

Underwater windows provide a unique and accessible "fish eye view" of stream habitat and fish. Fingering and juvenile salmon, trout and steelhead can be seen swimming and feeding in the shelter of logs and root wads. Crayfish, insect larvae and snails feed and thrive in the rocks of the stream bottom. For the lucky visitor, adult coho salmon are occasionally seen from late October to mid-December.

### 8 Big Fish of the River

During the fall and winter, salmon and steelhead spawn at this bend in the river. Salmon return to the river of their birth by using their keen sense of smell—which is a million times better than a human's!

### Look for:

spring chinook late August to late September  
fall chinook late October to mid-November  
winter steelhead mid-February to mid-May

### 9 Stream Keeper Stories

In 1993, this side-channel was restored by reconnecting it to the river through an old flood control levee. Over a half-mile of critical "off-channel" habitat was created to provide a home to thousands of young salmon and steelhead. Numerous man-made log jams were placed in the Salmon River to provide more shelter for fish.

### 10 Return Trail

Visitors can return to the upper parking lot by traveling back up the hill on the same trail along the boardwalk or by taking a gravel short cut trail back to the west end of the parking lot.

### 11 Salmon River Group Shelter

This 50-person picnic shelter is designed for year-round use by students and education programs. The shelter is also available to the public on a first-come, first-serve reservation basis. Contact the BLM for rental information.



*Remember, protecting watersheds is everyone's business! Thank you for visiting Cascade Streamwatch.*



## APPENDIX 6

### CHAMPOEG STATE HERITAGE AREA

- FACILITY INFORMATION
- INTERPRETIVE MASTERPLAN

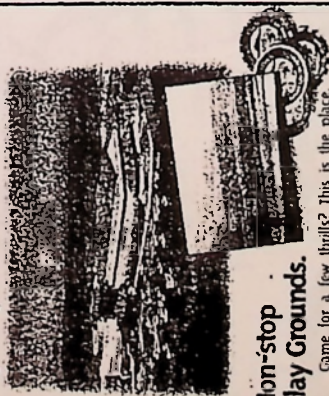
Oregon State Parks





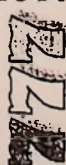


## Go play at the beach!



### Non-stop Play Grounds.

Come for a few thrills? This is the place. There's blackjack, keno, video poker, bingo, and a chance to go into immediate retirement with Megabucks and the nation's most popular progressive slot games.



### Buffet 'til you drop.

Once you've worked up an appetite, satisfy the hunger at one of our fantastic, go-back-for-your-tummy's-content buffets. Breakfast, lunch or dinner, including a Friday night Seafood Buffet. And for ocean view dining, try the Siletz Room, where we overlook rolling except the Pacific.

### Show time!

From Wayne Newton to Gladys Knight, our Concerts By The Sea lineup heats up the Oregon Coast with top-name entertainment on a regular basis.

### Fun runs in the family!

While you're out playing your games, we've got places for the kids, too. Like a professional day care center and a dazzling display of video arcade games.

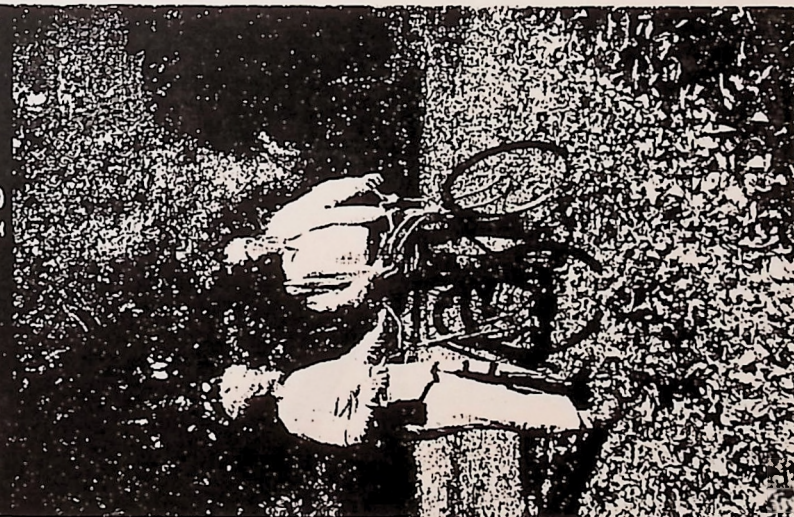
**CHINOOK WINDS CASINO**  
6 CONVENTION CENTER  
INCONCITY, OREGON

OPEN 24 HRS. A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK / 1-888-CHINOOK (244-6655)

## Champoeg



### Campground

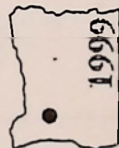


### Champoeg

State Heritage Area



Off US 99W, 7 miles E of Newberg  
Phone: (503) 678-1251



1999

## Welcome...

to Champoeg State Heritage Area  
Where settlers voted to create Oregon's first provincial government in 1843, campers now enjoy a combination of history, nature and recreation by the banks of the Willamette River.

### Campground Amenities

- 48 electrical sites with water
- 46 tent sites (summer only)
- 6 walk-in tent sites with water nearby
- 6 yurts
- Paved parking, picnic table, fire ring at all sites
- 2 campers (A9, A11) accessible to campers with disabilities
- 3 group tent camping areas
- RV group camping loop with meeting hall
- Hiker/biker camp
- Flush toilets and hot showers
- RV dump station

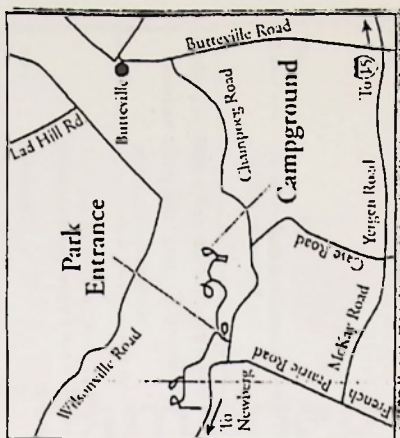
### What's a Yurt?

Enjoy the year-round comforts of a domed tent with structural support, a plywood floor, a lockable wooden door, lights and heating and beds with mattresses. A bunk bed sleeps three, and a fold-out couch sleeps two. A fire ring and picnic table are right outside; water and paved parking are nearby.

### Reserve Your Site Early

Campers may reserve Champoeg's electrical sites, walk-in tent sites and yurts in advance through Reservations Northwest. The park's meeting hall and group shelters also are reservable. Call toll-free, (800) 452-5687, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. after May 1. Or, make reservations through the Oregon state park website: [www.prd.state.or.us](http://www.prd.state.or.us). Reservations may be made up to 11 months in advance, but no less than two days before you want to camp.

Also call Reservations Northwest to reserve the park's group picnic areas and open air pavilion.



### Day-Use Offerings and Fees

The park has two spacious day-use areas available year-round. The Riverside area has group picnic facilities, historic sites and open fields. The Oak Grove area offers picnic sites, open fields, group picnic and camping facilities, a boating/fishing dock and a disc golf course.

Summer concerts are presented in the 3,500-seat Champoeg Amphitheater just south of the Riverside day-use area.

Day-use area permits are required year-round in both day-use areas. You'll need to display either a daily permit, an annual pass or your camping receipt on the driver side of your dashboard. Your camping receipt is equal to a daily permit for those days registered. You may purchase a daily permit for \$3 at the entrance booth or from a nearby yellow vending machine. Annual day-use permits are sold for \$25 by merchants near the park, at G.I. Joe's stores throughout Oregon and at any state park office.

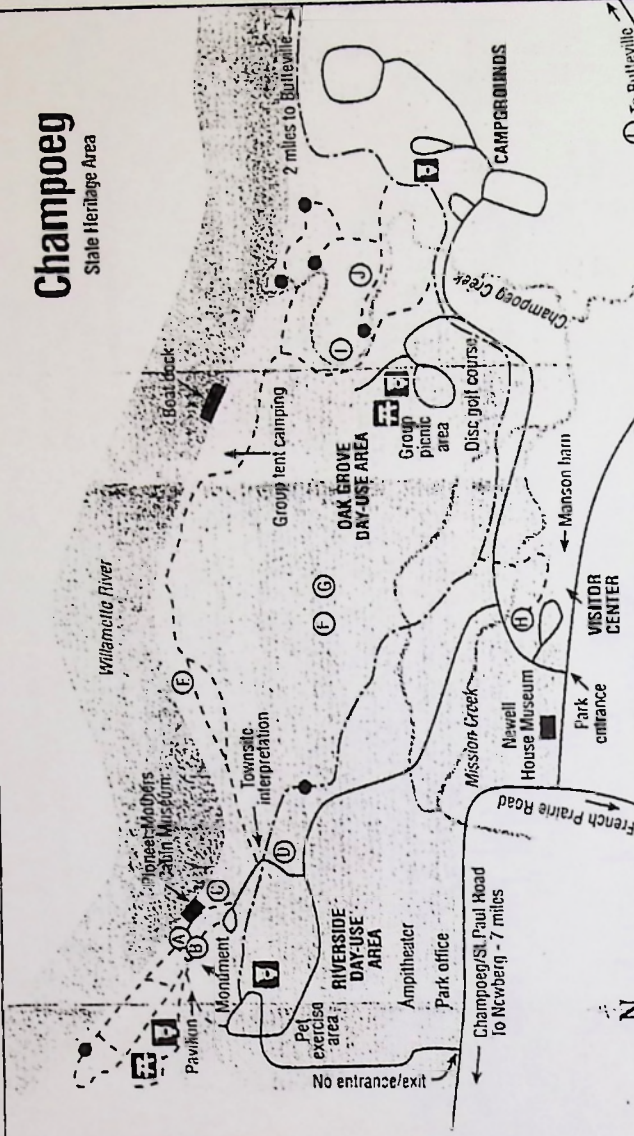
### Park Trails

A four-mile bicycle trail begins in the Riverside day-use area and winds through meadows and along the river bank. A one-mile hiking trail loops off the bike trail between points near the DAR cabin and Oak Grove day-use area, passing the park's historic townsite.



# Champoeg

State Heritage Area



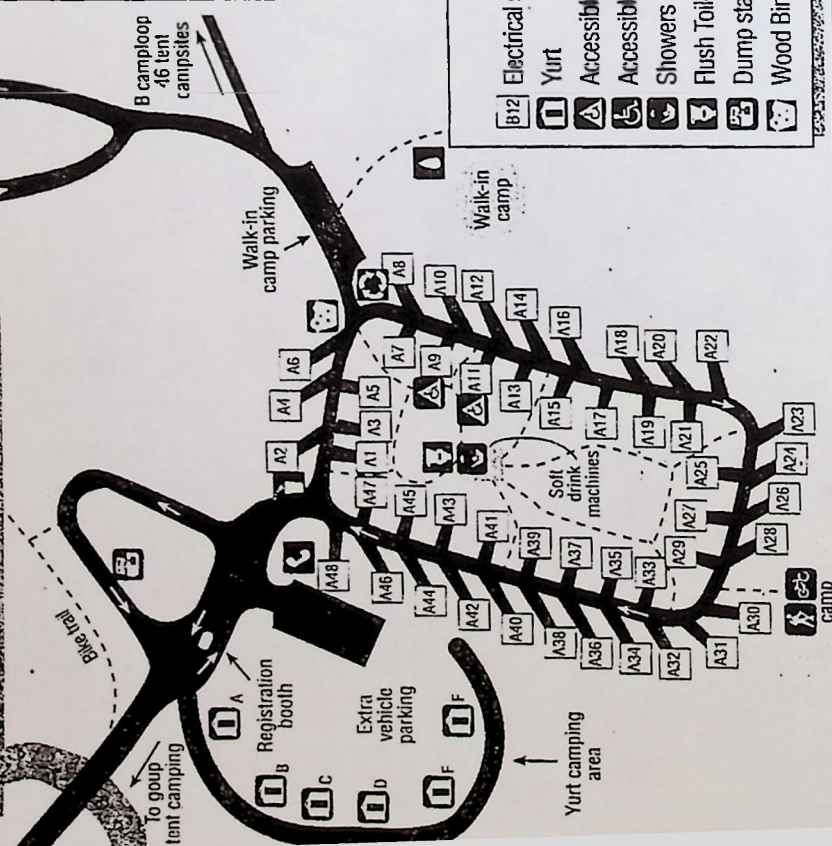
## Historic Sites (circa 1830 - 1861) Approximate Locations

- (A) Hudson's Bay Co. granary
- (B) Hudson's Bay Co. dwelling
- (C) Steamboat landing
- (D) Longtain house
- (E) Weston's blacksmith shop
- (F) First Newell house
- (G) Newell barn
- (H) Manson house
- (I) Old Fording place
- (J) Kitty Newell's grave
- (K) Champoeg flour mill
- (L) Weston family cemetery

## Legend

- Electrical site
- Yurt
- Accessible campsite
- Accessible facilities
- Showers
- Flush Toilets
- Dump station
- Wood Bin
- Viewpoint
- Phone
- Potable water
- Picnic shelter
- Garbage bin
- Bike Trails
- Hiking Trails

- Campground quiet hours are between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- Parking is permitted only on paved areas
- Bicycles are not permitted on hiking trails and are to be ridden with the traffic flow
- Pets must be under control at all times (maximum 6-foot leash) and wastes properly removed; pet exercise area available



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# Champoeg State Park

## Interpretive Masterplan



## Introduction

Champoeg State Park contains an abundance of historically significance sites. At the turn of the century, descendants of pioneer families began the park as a memorial to their pioneer heritage. It was often referred to as the "Plymouth Rock " of the west coast.

In 1988, a private consultant's study recommended Champoeg be further developed as a major historical attraction. A park masterplan was completed in 1990. The goal of that plan was to develop facilities and programs which interpreted Champoeg more fully as an important historic resource. The masterplan went on to recommend a detailed interpretive plan be developed to create clear connections between interpretive facilities, historic sites and recreational use areas. The following plan is an attempt to fulfill that need.

In order to recommend appropriate interpretive media, major factors critical to creating successful interpretive opportunities must be analyzed. These factors include:

**Audience:** Who are we trying to communicate to? What are their needs and expectations?

**Cultural or natural resource inventory:** What are the stories that can effectively be told at this site.

**Parameters:** Under what circumstances must the program be implemented and function?

**Goals:** Why are we doing this? What do we want to achieve?

**Theme:** What are the main messages we are trying to tell the vistor?



## **Audience Analysis**

### **Champoeg Statistics:**

Fiscal year 94-95 recorded 42,023 camper nights and 372,868 day visitors.

The 1993 Parks Visitor Survey shows Oregon campers average 4.1 in their party while day users average 3.2.

Nearly 28% of the visitors were 14 years or younger; 31% were between 20 and 49.

About 11% are 65 or older.

Well over half the campers have children with them; about 44% day visitors have children at the park.

Over 6000 school children (primarily 4th grade) take historic field trips to Champoeg annually.

### **General characteristics:**

The name Champoeg State Heritage Area will create for visitors expectations on opportunities to see something historic and experience high quality interpretive programs.

If visitors miss turning into the visitor center they are unlikely to comprehend the historic significance of the park.

A majority of visitors come to Champoeg solely for recreational opportunities like picnicking or bicycling and are unaware or uninterested in the park's historic significance.

Large numbers of school groups, primarily 4th graders, visit the park primarily in mid to late spring, lesser numbers visit in the fall. These groups also tend to be large in size, 50-90 students.

Out of state visitors have expressed dissatisfaction on the quantity and quality of interpretation of Oregon's historic features.

People tend to visit in groups such as families, so often there are varying degrees of education levels experiencing the same interpretive device at the same time.

Visitors are unreceptive to interpretation until they are provided basic orientation information - where are they in relation to water, restrooms, shelter, food.

Visitors have a number of different learning styles and may not be comfortable with just one style of interpretation.

Children learn best by hands-on experiences.



Visitors will have varying degrees of knowledge concerning early Oregon history.

Visitors have a limited amount of time and energy they are willing to expend absorbing information.

Large numbers of visitors are part of organized group picnic events.

Visitors tend to have more leisure time on weekends.

Some visitors have a problem with accessibility due to sight, hearing, mental or mobility impairments.

### **Historic Background**

The park occupies the site of an early Willamette Valley settlement known as Champoege. There is scant written documentation of site development prior to the actual platting of the townsite in 1853.

Kalapuya Indians occupied the site prior to and during initial contacts with trappers and traders in the early 1800's. To what extent the Kalapuyans utilized the site is still poorly understood.

Between 1812 and 1829, trappers seemed to have used the site for base camps. The Hudson's Bay Co.(H.B.C.) used the site for grazing large herds of horses and also outfitted their Southern Fur Brigades near or within the park.

By 1829, French-Canadians, retired from H.B.C., began to establish farms in the area. Andre Longtain may have established a farm within the park by 1834. John Ball established the first American farm in the entire Pacific Northwest within the park in 1833 (although he only farmed for one season).

In 1841, the H.B.C. built a grain warehouse and trading establishment at Champoege. By the 1840's, Americans attracted to the fertile soils of the Willamette Valley, began to settle in Champoege and the surrounding plains. With a steadily growing population, the need for some form of government to regulate the affairs of the region became apparent. Settlers began to meet in 1841 to discuss governmental needs. The meetings culminated in a historic vote taken at Champoege on May 2, 1843 establishing a provisional government.

Champoege continued to develop as a community through the 1840's and 1850's. It was an important political, economic and social center for the northern valley. The massive flood of 1861 totally destroyed the community and the area never regained its prominence.

In 1901, the State of Oregon recognized the importance of Champoege as an historic



site and placed a monument to memorialize the 1843 vote. The land around the monument was the first land ever purchased by the state for the establishment of a park.

The following is a partial list of important historic sites that are known or suspected of being within the park boundaries:

- possible sites of trappers base camps 1812-1829.
- possible site of rendezvous of H.B.C. Southern Brigades.
- possible site of H.B.C. livestock stations.
- John Ball farm (1833-first American to est. a farm in the Pacific Northwest).
- possible site of Nathaniel Wyeth farm(1834)
- Hauxhurst millsite (1835, first gristmill in the Willamette Valley).
- Thomas McKay millsite
- Andre Longtain farm (1834)
- George (Squire) Ebbert cabin site (1839).
- H.B.C. grain warehouse, trade store and clerk's residence (1841).
- Robert Newell farm (1843).
- Champoeg townsite.
- steamboat landings and ferry sites.
- Donald Manson (former H.B.C. Chief Trader) farm.
- Donald Manson barn (1862), restored.
- site of early Oregon road system (intersection of Salem-Champoeg and Champoeg-Oregon City).
- site of 1843 settlers meeting establishing the Oregon Provisional Government.
- probable site of 1837 meeting est. the Willamette Cattle Co.
- 1851 treaty site with Willamette Valley Indians, first to be negotiated in Oregon treaties were never ratified,.
- site of turn of the century gatherings commemorating the pioneer experience.
- 1901 monument and Pioneer Memorial Building(1918).
- D.A.R. Pioneer Mothers Cabin (1930).

## **Parameters**

### **Budget**

Future funding levels for development, operations and maintenance are unknown.

- The interpretive program should be designed at a realistic level to give the biggest bang for the buck. Devices should be designed to be long lived and low maintenance.

There is potential to develop sponsors for various programs and projects.

- Development cost could be reduced by targeting specific groups who may benefit or



have a special interest in the project, (ie. Fruit Growers for orchard, Agri- business for horse farming). The visitor center, townsite and wetland development also have grant potential.

### **Staffing**

Obtaining future funding for additional staff is probably unrealistic.

-Development proposals should include passive low maintenance devices. Volunteers could assist with presenting programs and maintaining program areas. Certain groups could be targeted to adopt projects like the orchard, barn, kitchen garden and wetland restoration.

### **Vandalism**

Varying degrees of vandalism occur at Champoeg.

- Vandal resistant materials should be used on all interpretive signs. Extensive development should be limited to secure areas.

### **Current Use Issues**

A majority of visitors come to Champoeg in groups because of the picnic, bicycling and hiking opportunities and remain unaware or uninterested in the park's historic significance.

- Interpretive signs should be strategically located to reach the largest audience as possible so as not to depend solely on the visitor center for interpretation. Signs need to be designed to grab visitors who may be bicycling or walking through the area, and quickly provide stimulating information. Signs should be designed to provoke group interaction.

### **Existing Landscape**

The location of historic sites, roads, town plat, farmsites etc. were not considered when a majority of the current park was developed. This creates a difficulty in orienting visitors to the historic landscape.

- Interpretive signs need to help visitors understand the orientation of the historic landscape.

The Riverside portion of the park has had extensive memorial plantings, including an aborted attempt at developing an arboretum of every tree found in the state, this dramatically changed the historic vegetation patterns.



- A historic landscape inventory should be done and exotic trees should be removed from the core of the townsite. Historic trees should be maintained and kept free of younger trees getting up in their crowns.

Extensive agricultural use resulted in the installation of numerous drainage ditches, eliminating much of the original wetlands. The wetland areas originally influenced much of the early settlement patterns. The flora and fauna found within the wet meadows were important food sources for the Kalapuya and French-Canadians.

- Interpretation of the proposed wetland restoration should include the influences these biological communities had on Indians and early settlers.

### **Floodplain**

A majority of the park lies within the 100 year flood plain.

- Development of interpretive facilities in the floodplain have to conform with floodplain restrictions. Interpretation should be offered at the townsite, wetland restoration and visitor center that explains the flood dynamics of the Willamette River.

### **Historic Register Guidelines**

Much of the park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as an archeological district.

- Development must be sensitive to areas where there is a high probability of archeological resources being impacted. Consultation with the SHPO archeologist should be made prior to ground disturbance.

### **Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) Properties**

By lease agreement, the D.A.R. operates the Pioneer Mothers Cabin within the park boundaries in the core of the historic area. They also own and operate the Robert Newell House immediately adjacent to the park entrance. Visitors often associate the two operations as being run by the park. There currently is a lack of coordination and understanding of interpretive efforts and messages being delivered at those sites.

- Park staff need to continue to try to communicate and provide input on the operation and interpretive programming provided at those sites in order for them to positively contribute to the overall Champoege interpretive experience.

### **Goals**



The primary goal of a park interpretive program is to enhance a visitors experience by communicating the significant stories about the resources associated with that site.

The key to providing an interpretive program that both enhance a visitor's recreational experience and provides information to visitors that assist the agency in management of the resource, is to identify first the overall agency goals and with those in mind, develop the park interpretive program goals.

## **Goal Hierarchy**

### **OPRD Mission Statement**

Provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

### **Overall OPRD Interpretive Services Program Goal**

To heighten and increase public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the natural and cultural resources of the OPRD system.

#### **Subgoal #1**

Promote public understanding of our agency's mission and mandates.

#### **Subgoal #2**

Provide visitors with enjoyable and inspirational park experiences.

#### **Subgoal #3**

Accomplish management goals by encouraging thoughtful use of resources.

#### **Subgoal #4**

Enhance agency image as cultural and natural resource managers.

#### **Subgoal #5**

Help generate broad based agency support.

### **Champoeg Management Goals**

1. Encourage longer stays.
2. Encourage repeat visitation.
3. Increase revenue from day-use and camping fees.
4. Provide an economic benefit to the local community by achieving the aforementioned



goals.

### **Champoeg Interpretive Goal**

1. To provide visitors a better understanding of the historic significance of the Champoeg area by developing facilities and programs, beyond just the visitor center, which interpret Champoeg's important role in the settlement of the Willamette Valley.
2. Champoeg needs to take advantage of the potential the site has to offer to become a major historical attraction. Champoeg should be developed as a place people come to feel a connection to their past.
3. The interpretation at Champoeg should be interpreted in a regional context to provide a link to other historic sites in the area (ie. French Prairie, St. Paul, Zorn Farm, Willamette Mission, Salem, Oregon City, Ft. Vancouver).

The following **broad** interpretive program objectives are based on the idea that knowledge affects attitudes and attitudes affects behavior.

After visitors are involved with the interpretive program they will:

**Know-** The Champoeg area played an important role in the early settlement of the Willamette Valley.

**Feel-** This area was worth preserving and is an important investment for the State of Oregon.

**Do-** They may choose to stay longer, come back again and tell others about the site. They may also want to actively support the park or other community preservation programs.

All interpretive devices and programs should be designed with **specific** learning objectives and, where applicable, emotional and behavioral objectives.

### **Themes**

Themes are a way of organizing and linking information to assure your basic messages are being communicated. Information that does not reinforce your primary message (theme) can be eliminated from the interpretive effort.

#### **Central Theme**

Champoeg served as a gateway for the early exploration and settlement of the



Willamette Valley; as a result, within the confines of the park lie some of the most significant cultural sites in the Pacific Northwest.

- Champoeg's significance centers on its role in the formation of Oregon's first government and its role in Oregon's transition from a fur-trade economy to an agricultural economy.

### **Supporting themes:**

1. Champoeg's role as a gateway to the Willamette Valley was a result of the geographical significance of an extensive prairie systems meeting a major waterway.
2. It was Champoeg's natural resources and location that attracted Native Americans, fur trappers and early settlers to the area.
3. Champoeg is the birthplace of Oregon government.
4. For the early Oregon settlers, the vote at Champoeg was a "victory of the American spirit".
5. Champoeg's history illustrates the development of Oregon industry from the wilderness days of the fur-trade to its eventual displacement by settlement and the rise of an agricultural economy.
6. The Donald Manson Barn is a living link to Champoeg's pioneer past.
7. Champoeg's role as a wheat shipping point was important to the development of Willamette Valley agriculture.
8. Champoeg was a social, political and economic center in the early days of Willamette Valley settlement.
9. Much of the history of Champoeg still remains unclear, the park's archeological resources may eventually shed light on what everyday life was like in the early Oregon settlement.
- (10. A flood theme?)

### **Media Prescription**

#### **Introduction**

Currently the majority of park interpretation relies on the static displays located at the



visitor center. If visitors miss the opportunity to spend some time there, they will probably remain unaware of the park's historic significance.

In general interpretation is most effective when people can see and experience the site first hand as opposed to reading or hearing about it at an area removed from the actual resource.

Interpretation should be developed further at:

1. Visitor Center
2. Donald Manson Barn
3. Townsite
4. Pioneer Memorial Site
5. Wetland Restoration
6. Campground

## **Visitor Center**

Description-The visitor center, located just east of the park entrance, was constructed in 1977. The displays were updated in 1988. The building is 12,625 s.f. with 2,000 s.f. of exhibit space. The displays give an overview of Champoege from the time of Kalapuyan occupation to the years the area became a memorial to pioneers in the early 1900's. Included is a display focusing on the archaeological studies of the townsite during the 1970's. The building also features: a multi-purpose meeting room used primarily for A/V presentations, a small sales area and information desk, basement storage for artifacts, a library and three offices, an outdoor deck overlooking the historic townsite and Oak Grove day use area and access to the park's bike trails. The parking area can accommodate 35 cars and 5 buses.

## **Themes**

All

## **Design Concepts**

The visitor center needs to continue to operate as a place where visitors can be provided with both park orientation information and interpretation. Exhibits should reveal the overall story of the park while also orienting visitors to other park interpretive opportunities. The interpretive store should continue to provide visitors with the opportunity to purchase something to help them remember their experience or to find materials to help them further understand the region's historic significance. Additional items should be sold to reflect some of the program expansions such as the barn activity area and wetland restoration projects.

School groups will continue to be an important part of the visitor center program and any redesign or upgrade should consider the needs of large groups of school children.



There will continue to be a need for a large gathering place like the current auditorium. New displays should be developed with the needs of children in mind which would include the extensive use of graphics and artifacts as opposed to lengthy text. Simple interactive devices such as questions with a lift and reveal panel and tactile elements like touch tables should be incorporated throughout the exhibit space. This would also answer the need of group interaction for visitors coming in family or organized groups. To keep visitors attentive, a balanced exhibit load should be developed by paying attention to the ratio of interactive vs. passive exhibits. Universal Design should be used in the development of new displays and facilities.

The current exhibit organization of walking visitors through a timeline beginning with Native Americans use of the site and ending with the area being commemorated as a memorial to pioneers is still viable. It is a good way to orient people to the many stories associated with the different Champoeg eras. Another possibility would be to have the vote story up front and then begin the timeline. Rather than conclude with the memorial aspect, the conclusion should be the archeological story with an orientation to other interpretive sites within the park. Currently the archeology display is in an awkward and confusing location.

Suggested exhibit cells:

Orientation panel -

Kalapuya use of site-

Furtrappers-

French-Canadians-

Missionaries and American Settlers-

The Vote-

Townsite Development -

The Flood -

Commemoration -

Archeology and what else to see -

**Cost Projection**

2,000sf of exhibits @ \$200/sf      **Total \$400,000**



## **Donald Manson Barn**

**Description** The barn is located just east of the visitor center. The barn was erected on site by Donald Manson in 1862. A 1992 study revealed the building to be actually a rebuilt / recycled structure. The original building was of earlier origins and probably part of the Champoeg townsite. Manson lost his original farm and home to the 1861 flood. He probably salvaged the materials from a building that had been washed off its foundations. Manson probably used the barn as a multi-purpose farm building. (see appendix \_\_,\_\_). The barn is being restored and should have most restoration work completed by July, 1997.

### **Themes**

1. The Donald Manson Barn is a living link to Champoeg's pioneer past.
2. Champoeg's history illustrates the development of Oregon industry from the days of the fur trade to its eventual displacement by settlement and the rise of an agricultural economy.
3. Champoeg's role as a wheat shipping point was important to the development of Willamette Valley agricultural.
4. It was Champoeg's natural resources and location that attracted Native Americans, fur trappers and early settlers to the area.

### **Design Concepts**

The Manson Barn area will serve as a living link to Champoeg's historic past. Programming should be developed in this area to bring Champoeg's past to life. It is the only 19th century building in the park. After completing the restoration, the area around the barn will be developed as a typical small 1860's farm complex. This would include historic fencing, a kitchen garden and small orchard. ( See addendum XXX for site plan.)

The Visitor Center will represent the position of the farmhouse. A portal area out the rear of the building near the current exit will be developed. Visitors will walk on a board walkway out to a gate at a picket fence. Design of the pickett fence can be base on the turn of the century photo of the Newell house fence. On either side of the gateway will be interpretive panels, one focusing on Donald Manson with the other interpreting the restoration project.

Paths leading to the barn, garden, orchard and activity area under the Oak will be treated with soil hardeners to simulate packed earth.



The orchard will be enclosed by a four board high fence. An interpretive panel should be placed at the orchard to relate the influence apples had on Oregon's early economy.

The kitchen garden south of the Visitor Center will be enclosed by a primitive paling fence. A paling fence is comprised of vertical boards split from small poles with widths varying from four to six inches. These pales are nailed to two rails made from long peeled poles slightly flattened on one side. *Note- We should move this inside the pickett fence area. The pickett fence will be more elegant on the south side and become simpler as it turns at the northeast corner.*

A split rail fence will separate the pasture near the barn from the barnyard. Additional split rail fences will be used between orchard and wheat field. The following is a description of split rail manufacturing from the book *St. Paul, Oregon 1830- 1890* by Harvey McKay:

"Approximately 25,000 ten foot long wooden rails were required to enclosed a 320 acre farm and divide it into 40 acre fields. Most of the rails were made by sawing fir trees which were about ten inches in diameter into ten foot lengths, and then splitting them with an ax into four pieces called rails."

These fence types will illustrate typical fencing patterns of mid 19th century Oregon. **The pattern of different fence types in relation to the position of the house is an important element in developing an authentic historic landscape.** The lithograph of the Francis Feller farm near Butteville as illustrated in the 1878 Marion Linn County Atlas is a good local example of this pattern. For more information on fencing refer to *The Pickett Fence in Oregon- An American Vernacular Comes West*, Philip Dole. The following is a description from Dole's book of a general rural landscape and should be considered in the development and maintenance of this area-

" The front fence was part of a rectangular enclosure typically surrounding the house on all sides. Perhaps the rural resident imitated the more suburban or city house in this aspect; certainly it usually was the suburban yard that magazines such as the *American Agriculturist* featured. Often all the sides were enclosed in pickets although many had horizontal board fencing at the back and sides facing the work areas. Within the enclosures were a front yard area with ornamental and native trees and flowering shrubs and, at the sides of the house, flower beds along or parallel to kitchen porches. Grass grew throughout, usually untended and left to the effects of season and weather. Paths and walks ran perpendicularly from porch steps to outbuildings and to gates which open to further paths leading to yards for chickens and vegetables. Many paths were hard-packed earth; that from the front door was generally a board walk."

Mowing of the area should be done with a sickle bar to approximate the look of a scythed area. The clippings would have to be removed, but could be used for feed and animal bedding. Actual scything of the area is another option, although the technique of scything is difficult to master. Scything would add an excellent interpretive element.



A good reference when considering plant materials, layout and maintenance is *Landscapes and Gardens for Historic Buildings*, Rudy J. Favretti and Joy Putnam Favretti, published by the American Association for State and Local History. The book is in the SHPO library.

### **Antique Orchard**

There is probably room for eight standard size trees in the apple orchard. It is critical that standard size root stock is used. Care should be taken early on in the pruning of the trees to develop a classic form. Varieties should be chosen from the following list depending on availability:

- Red Astrachan
- Red June
- Talman's Sweet
- Summer Sweet
- Gravenstein
- White Winter Pearmain
- Genet
- Gloria Mundi
- Baldwin
- Rambo
- Winesap
- Jenneting
- Seek-no-Further
- Tulpahockin
- American Pippin
- Red Cheek Pippin
- Rhode Island Greening
- Little Ramanite
- Spitzenberg
- Swaar
- Waxen

### **Kitchen Garden**

Efforts should be made to use heirloom varieties. Coordination on correct plant varieties and seed sources could occur with Ft. Vancouver National Historic Site and the End of the Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City. They have made substantial efforts in establishing heirloom gardens. Seed Savers Exchange, Route 3, Box 239, Decorah, IL 52101, is also an excellent resource.

Typical pioneer kitchen gardens would have included herbs such as lemon balm,



borage, garlic, dill, sage and thyme. Vegetables would include shell beans, onions, winter squash, greens, melons, cucumbers, sweet corn, potatoes and peas.

### **Farm Equipment**

Equipment for this area should be for the most part reproductions representative of mid 19th century vintage. The following is a partial list of needed items:

Hand Pump- tied into the existing water line near the barn.

Farm Wagon- probably a small, one horse, springboard.

Scythes- both grass and grain.

Grain cradle

Hand Flail

Hoe

Shovels

Hay Fork

Manure Fork

Produce Baskets

Buckets

Tubs

Fan Mill - already have one in collection

Winnowing Baskets

Grinding Wheel

Cider Mill

Horse Collars and Harness

### **Farm Animals**

The current sheep grazing in the park is appropriate for the setting. Some aspects of the operation could center around the barn. Lambs would be particularly attractive. Hand shearing and wool processing demonstrations would be appropriate.

Eventually some horse farming should be pursued and the shed on the barn could be used for housing the animals during demonstration times.

Chickens should be obtained for the barn area. The Bantam breeds are particularly hardy, not aggressive, and could probably free range around the site. A small poultry house should be built using historic designs.

Care of these animals could be a major element of the interpretive presentations.

### **Wheat Field**

The area west of the orchard could be planted in winter wheat. It's a small area that



could be used for demonstration of planting and harvesting. The wheat could then be threshed and winnowed in the barn. Even if horse farming was not an option the area could still be planted and harvested with a combination of modern and historic techniques.

## **Demonstrations**

Demonstrations would focus on the seasonal patterns of farm and family life. The oak tree area between the barn and Visitor Center, because of its setting and providing needed shade, should continue to be used for demonstrations. The bench seating could be upgraded but should still be rustic in appearance. Some fencing may need to be installed to keep animals from using this area during peak program months.

Possible topics:

cider making  
threshing and winnowing grain  
shake splitting  
rail splitting  
shelling beans  
soap making  
shearing  
spinning  
scything  
drying foods  
planting, tending crops  
grafting trees  
wood working with shaving horse  
harness repair  
smithing  
tool making, repair  
candle making  
farrier work  
(literally any 19th century activity appropriate for the setting)

## **Interpretive panels**

### **Panel 1.**

Located on the west side of the path portal from the Visitor Center. Focuses on Donald Manson, his place in Oregon history, relationship to the Champoege area and his farm.

- ▶ Text blocks relate Manson's history with the H.B.C., his early relationship to the Champoege area, some descriptions regarding his stature and his misfortune with



his Champoeeg farm.

- ▶ Graphics to include known photo of Manson, 1856 farm survey and perhaps an illustration (taken from local oral tradition) of his servants fanning flies off him as he stands overlooking a farm field.

## Panel 2.

Located to the right of the pickett fence gate. Focuses on the restoration of the barn and the detective work which revealed the building had an earlier history. An audio post may be incorporated into this orientation piece on the barn's history.

- ▶ Text block relates the clues found when studying the barn that indicated the building had a life prior to 1862. Conclude text with a question regarding the function of the original building- the possible answer relates to the mysterious corner mortise.
- ▶ Graphics to include photos of barn prior to restoration, phantom columns, rafter pegs and corner mortise. Illustrations could be used to show the older buildings position in relation to the current layout.

**Panel 3.** Located just inside the gate at the orchard (should be placed so as not to detract from scene). Focuses on the beginnings of the apple industry in Oregon.

- ▶ Text block relates Seth Lewelling's story and the role orchards played in Oregon's early economy. Apples sold for as much as a dollar a piece in the days of the 1849 gold rush. Newell probably made much of his fortune in California by selling apples. In the 19th century, an orchard was an intrinsic element of any Willamette Valley farm .
- ▶ Graphics could include illustrations of both the retrofitted wagon Lewelling used to bring orchard stock across the Oregon Trail and hand painted signs offering apples for sale at much inflated prices.

## Cost Projection

2 interpretive panels @\$3,000ea.= \$6,000  
1 interpretive panel w/ audio post \$4,000  
8 heritage standard size apple trees @ \$20/ea.= \$160  
orchard fence \$900  
rail fence\* 275 yds. @ \$10/yd = \$2,750 (materials)  
Pickett fence TBD  
Pale fence and garden TBD



Farm equipment TBD

**Total Cost** \$13,810 + TBD

\* cost for rail fence suggested throughout this plan may be offset by obtaining poles and having volunteers split them. Rail splitting demonstrations could be a part of the interpretive program. Visitors would gain an understanding of what it meant for a farmer to obtain 25,000 rails for the average farm fencing needs.

## **Townsite**

**Description** The townsite is generally located between the Pioneer Memorial Building and the Oak Grove day use area. It exist today as an extensive archaeological site. The bike trail, hiking trail, D.A.R. Museum, parking lot and access road all intersect the platted site. The west half of the town historically was maintained as a group campground and the east half as unmaintained pasture. Visually you still get a distinct feeling of the site being divided in half. Some remnants of an aborted attempt at establishing an arboretum remain on the west side of the site. Aside from two partially overgrown earthen ramps leading to the river and the tree lined boulevard of Napoleon street, there is little visual evidence of past history. There are some corners of the original platted streets marked with routed 6" X 6" cedar post.

## **Themes**

1. Champoeg served as a gateway for the early exploration and settlement of the Willamette Valley; as a result, within the confines of the park lie some of the most significant cultural sites in the Pacific Northwest.
2. Champoeg's role as a gateway to the Valley was a result of the geographical significance of an extensive prairie system meeting a major waterway.
3. It was Champoeg's natural resources and location that attracted Native Americans, fur trappers and early settlers to the area.
4. Champoeg was a social, political and economic center in the early days of Willamette Valley settlement.
5. Much of the history of Champoeg still remains unclear, the park's archaeological resources may someday shed light on what life was like for the early settlement.

## **Design Concepts**

The townsite area should be interpreted as an archaeological site. Development of living history areas should be confined to the Manson Barn and agricultural areas. The core of the town should have some connections developed with the Memorial area.



This could be done by extending a rail fence down the Pavilion access road and picking it up again at the intersection of Maple and Montcalm. Eventually, the Pioneer Mothers Cabin parking area should be relocated and the existing parking lot and road developed into a pedestrian trail connecting the Memorial area and Townsite. A split rail fence could line the route. This connection was originally the road that linked the H.B.C. granary, town and millsites.

The core area of the platted site should appear as a distinct, unified landscape. Currently the eastern and western portions are not uniform due to years of park management on the west half as opposed to agricultural management to the east. This unification can be accomplished by:

- ▶ Enhancement of the turf area on the eastern half of the town and possibly introducing a few native shade trees.
- ▶ Eliminating parts of the arboretum plantings and all of the Scotch Broom and English Ivy invasion.
- ▶ Maintain views of the river at the foot of Napoleon Street.
- ▶ Line Napoleon Street with a split rail fence.
- ▶ Differentially mow DeGrasse, Montcalm, Napoleon and Jefferson Streets- lots mowed less frequently than streets.

An orientation kiosk should be developed near the intersection of Montcalm and Maple Streets. A flood pole marking historic floodwater heights could be incorporated into this feature. Low profile interpretive panels should be developed at the intersection of Napoleon and DeGrasse and the intersection of Napoleon and Montcalm. A panel should be placed at the junction where the bike trail veers away from the park road and heads toward the townsite. Small identification markers will be placed at the two earthen ramps. See site map for locations. Use of solar audio post incorporated into panels should be considered both for ADA requirements and to bring back the past by providing some environmental sounds (steamboat whistles, creaking wagons, horses, the bustle of town life, rain, panicky townspeople, livestock etc.)

### **Orientation Kiosk**

The kiosk should have a rustic appearance. The typical Canadian "piece sur piece" or post in sill style of construction could be used to influence design. The kiosk will accommodate four panels.

#### **Panel 1. w/ audio post**

Focuses on the general evolution of the site from temporary fur trapper encampments to the platted townsite.

- ▶ Text block relates the story of settlement from the days of Sand Camp through



the development of grist mill and grain warehouses creating a commercial boom for the site, which eventually lead to the platting and selling of lots.

- Graphics include depictions of encampment sites evolving into settler cabins evolving to early townsite.

#### **Panel 2.**

Focuses on the story of Robert Newell and Andre Longtain and their role in the development of the town.

#### **Panel 3.**

Focuses on the 1861 flood and the general flooding history of the Willamette.  
*A flood pole indicating historic flood crest would be located outside kiosk.*

#### **Panel 4.**

Focuses on the archeological investigations conducted at the site and what we can learn from historic archeology.

#### **Additional Panels**

##### **Panel 5. w/ audio post at the intersection of Degrasse and Napoleon**

Focuses on commercial core of the townsite. The Newell store, DeGuire store and stage stop, the Hotel, ferry site and boat landing.

##### **Panel 6. w/ audio post at the intersection of Montcalm and Napoleon**

Focuses on the first hand account of the 1861 flood and the dramatic rescue efforts.

##### **Panel 7. Junction of bike trail and park road on east side of site**

Focuses on John Ball story (first American farm in the Pacific Northwest) with an intro to townsite area.

#### **Ramp Markers**

These markers will simply identify remains of Pettygrove Warehouse ramp - 1844, and ramp and warehouse site, John McLoughlin's claim 1856.

#### **Tours**



Tours of the site should be regularly scheduled during busy months. The tours should utilize some of the artifacts found during the archeological study to show what kind of information can still be learned about the site. Actually seeing and touching materials used by the pioneer settlers is a powerful experience for visitors and can bring a rather empty landscape to life.

If a "living history" element is desired at this site, a tour could be developed where a costumed character leads the tour through the site remembering what the town was like before the flood. The character probably shouldn't be someone who actually lived in the town but a frequent visitor who knew many of the townfolk.

### **Cost Projection**

Kiosk	\$ 5,000
Interpretive panels 4@ \$3,000 =	\$12,000
3@ \$4,000 =	\$12,000 (w/ audio post)
Flood pole and ramp markers	\$ 1,000
Rail Fence 550 yds. @ \$10/yd. =	\$ 5,500 (materials)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,500</b>

## **Pioneer Memorial Site**

### **Description**

The Pioneer Memorial site, located in the Riverside day use area, includes the 1901 monument commemorating the 1843 Vote, the Pioneer Memorial Building constructed in 1918 and a large routed redwood historical marker (Beaver Board). This is the site of the 1843 vote and also the site of the H.B.C. grain warehouse, trade store and clerks residence.

### **Themes**

1. Champoege served as a gateway for the exploration of the Willamette Valley; as a result, within the confines of the park lie some of the most significant cultural sites in the Pacific Northwest.
2. Champoege is the birthplace of Oregon Government.
3. For early Oregon settlers the vote at Champoege was a victory of the American Spirit.
4. Champoege's history illustrates the development of Oregon industry from the days of the fur trade to its eventual displacement by settlement and the rise of an agricultural economy.
5. Champoege's role as a wheat shipping point was important to the development of Willamette Valley agriculture.



## **Design Concept**

The Pioneer Memorial Building area is the essence of the original intention of the park. Currently its use as a group reservation area is in conflict with the original values of the site. Current group use on weekends makes interpretive presentations at the "Vote" site impossible. The building itself should be restored to its 1920 appearance which included the open air auditorium. Inside the building large format photos of early Founder's Day celebrations should be displayed. Group rental of the facility should be de-emphasized. The site should be used on weekends by interpreters for introduction to tours of the vote site and townsite. Additional weekend presentations should be developed at the building to put onsite programming in the midst of a high use area.

The roadside marker or "Beaver Board", if kept, should be updated with current information utilizing the Travel Information Council's (TICO) new design standards. It should continue to serve as a broad introduction to the significance of the park.

A connection needs to be developed to the townsite area from this site. (See Townsite design concepts.)

A kiosk to accomodate four interpretive panels should be developed just east of the monument.

### **Kiosk**

The Kiosk should again be rustic in nature and the design could be influence by the traditional Canadian post in sill style of construction.

#### **Panel 1.**

Focuses on the Kalapuyan use of the area.

#### **Panel 2.**

Focuses on the use of the area during the fur trade and the establishment of the H.B.C. grain warehouse and trade store in 1841. This could also introduce visitors to the townsite.

#### **Panel 3. w/ audio post**

Focuses on the 1843 Vote.

#### **Panel 4.**

Focuses on memorializing the site.



## Cost Projection-

Kiosk	\$5,000
Interpretive Panels 3@	\$3,000= \$9,000
1@	\$4,000= \$4,000
Large format photos	\$1,000
Rail Fence 300yds@	\$10/yd.= \$3,000 (materials)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,000</b>

## Wetland Restoration

### Description

The original Champoeg townsite was surrounded by wet meadow systems. The wet meadows provided important food sources for native people. Early settlers used them for grazing in the drier months and possibly some hay was cut. During the 20th century, extensive ditches were installed to quickly drain the meadows, allowing for more intensive agricultural use. In 1995 a project began to restore 18 acres of wetland just east of the townsite. Ditches were dammed and eventually native vegetation will be re-introduced.

### Themes

1. It was Champoeg's natural resources and location that attracted Native Americans, fur trappers and settlers to the area.

**Design Concept-** Develop a trail from the Oak Grove Picnic shelter west to a viewing blind located between the south and north swale. Two separate viewing areas for each swale may be warranted depending to what extent the south swale develops. Additional screening of Ash, Hawthorn, Snowberry and Nootka Rose should be planted along fenceline. A series of interpretive panels should be developed outside and within the blind.

### Panel 1.

Focuses on the significance of wetlands to the native people and early settlement patterns.

- Text block relates importance of wet meadows as food sources for native people and early French-Canadian settlers.
- Illustration of Indians harvesting plants from meadow with insets of different plant species and their uses.



## **Panel 2.**

Focuses on Euro-American use of the wetlands from grazing and haying to draining and converting for more intensive agriculture use and its impact on wildlife and flood control.

- Text relates different uses of wet meadows through 19th and 20th century and its impact to wildlife and flood control.
- Illustrations would include historic scenes of farming wetlands with waterfowl veering off from landing. Pullouts would include maps comparing wetland acreage in the Willamette Valley pre 1850 to acreage remaining today, additional inset showing sponge effect of wetlands and flood control (both topics may require 2 panels).

## **Panel 3.**

Focuses on bird and animal life that may be viewed from the blind.

- Text block relates wildlife viewing tips: best viewing times, need for silence, suggesting where to look and what to listen for etc.
- Full color illustration of wetland with birds and animals in their natural settings with common names.

## **Cost Projection**

Panels.....	\$ 9,000
Blind(s).....	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,000</b>

## **Campground**

### **Description**

The camping area at Champoeg currently consist of 46 tent sites, 48 sites with electrical and water and 12 walk-in tent sites. The 46 tent sites are scheduled to be improved with electric and water. The area lies just east of the creek and is in close proximity with some of the old millsites. The old Champoeg - Oregon City road runs through the middle of the improved loop. The setting has views of early 20th century barns, agricultural fields and pastures. The bike trail is adjacent to the area and provides pedestrian connections to the townsite and river.



## **Theme**

All

### **Design Concept**

There is a need to provide campers with an overview of the interpretive opportunities within the park. Schedules of tours and programs should continue to be posted and consistently updated. Evening campfire talks should be developed that highlight some of the more colorful site stories. Programs demonstrating pioneer skills or living history presentations should also be developed. The program area at the campground should be improved.

An interpretive panel should be installed at the junction of the Kitty Newell trail and the bike trail explaining the old Champoeg Oregon City Road which runs through "A" loop.

### **Panel 1**

Focuses on the alignment of the old road and the stage line price wars that occurred in the early 1850's.

- Text block explains the history of the road and its relationship to the town. The stage wars could also be highlighted.
- Illustration of a stagecoach fully loaded negotiating the dirt road.

### **Cost Estimates**

1 interpretive panel at \$3,000

### **Publications**

It is recommended the Park continue to offer a free 6 fold general brochure. The historic nature of the park and its interpretive facilities should be highlighted.

A longer booklet should be developed for visitors to purchase which gives a well rounded treatment of the Champoeg story that is a bit more in depth than the information in the exhibits.

Many visitors come seeking information about a certain individuals. Fly sheets could also be developed for some of the more significant Champoeg players.







